

Arthur Smith
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THE Nonconformist.

"THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT, AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

VOL. XXV.—NEW SERIES, No. 1051.]

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, DEC. 27, 1865.

PRICE { UNSTAMPED... 6d.
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RELIGIOUS LIBERTY IN JAMAICA.

At a MEETING of the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE of the SOCIETY for the LIBERATION of RELIGION from STATE-PATRONAGE and CONTROL, held Dec. 22, 1865, it was RESOLVED:—

"1. This Committee having had under its consideration a Bill for the Regulation of Places of Religious Worship, lately submitted by the Colonial Government to the Legislature of Jamaica, regards the measure as subversive of the rights and liberties enjoyed by the inhabitants of that island, in common with her Majesty's subjects throughout the empire.

"2. That although the local opposition offered to the Bill has led to its withdrawal, there being reason to anticipate that it will be followed by another measure, which, while more limited in its operation, will have in view the same object, and be characterised by the same spirit, this Committee deems it right to enter a protest against all such legislation, and will be prepared for such efforts as may be needful to prevent its becoming operative.

"3. That as, in consequence of recent lamentable events, the state of Jamaica is likely to become the subject of thorough investigation, the Committee is of opinion that such inquiry should embrace the application of the revenues of the island to ecclesiastical purposes, and that advantage should be taken of the present opportunity for putting an end to a system fraught with injustice.

"4. That a Sub-Committee be appointed to adopt measures for giving practical effect to the foregoing resolutions."

WILLIAM EDWARDS, Chairman.

J. CARVELL WILLIAMS, Secretary.

2, Serjeants'-inn, Fleet-street.

WEEK of UNIVERSAL PRAYER,

JANUARY 7-14, 1866.

Christians are earnestly invited to promote the holding of Prayer Meetings in their neighbourhoods. Papers containing the topics suggested for exhortation and intercession on the successive days of meeting may be had at the Evangelical Alliance Office, 7, Adam-street, Strand, London, W.C.

WEEK of UNIVERSAL PRAYER.

SPECIAL UNITED PRAYER-MEETINGS will be HELD DAILY during the Week commencing JANUARY 8, 1866, in FREEMASONS' HALL, GREAT QUEEN-STREET.—Addresses will be given by the Rev. W. PENNEFATHER, M.A., Rev. ADOLPH SAPHIR, B.A., Rev. WM. SHAW (President of the Wesleyan Conference), Rev. GEORGE SMITH, D.D., Rev. C. D. MARSTON, M.A., and Rev. JOHN ORFORD. Every Morning at Eleven o'clock. Programmes containing names of Chairmen and Speakers, with the subjects for each day, may be had at the Office of the Evangelical Alliance, 7, Adam-street, Strand, W.C., where also Contributions towards the expenses will be gratefully received.

DISSIDENTS' PROPRIETARY-SCHOOL,

TAUNTON.

PRINCIPAL—Rev. W. H. GRIFFITH, M.A.

The PUPILS will RE-ASSEMBLE on FRIDAY, January 26th. Prospectuses may be obtained by application to the Principal, or to the Secretary, Rev. J. S. Underwood.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON

SCHOOL.

Under the Government of the Council of the College.
Head-Master—THOMAS HEWITT KEY, M.A., F.R.S.
Vice-Master—WILLIAM A. CASE, M.A.
HENRY MALDEN, M.A., Professor of Greek in the College, has charge of the highest Greek Class.

The SCHOOL will REOPEN on TUESDAY, January 16th, 1866, for new pupils, at 9.30 a.m. All the boys must appear in their places on Wednesday, the 17th January, at 9.30. The hours of attendance are from 9.30 to 4. Of this time, one hour and a quarter is allowed for recreation and dinner. The playground is spacious, and contains a Gymnasium and Five Courts.

The subjects taught are Reading, Writing, the English, Latin, Greek, French, and German Languages, Ancient and English History, Geography (Physical and Political), Arithmetic and Book-keeping, the Elements of Mathematics, Chemistry, Natural Philosophy, Social Science, and Drawing. The School Session is divided into three terms. Fee, £7 per term. Gymnastics and Fencing extra.

Any Pupil may omit Greek, or Greek and Latin, and devote his whole attention to the other branches of education.

JUNIOR DEPARTMENT.

CLASSES FOR YOUNG BEGINNERS.

These Classes are for Pupils between the ages of Seven and Nine, who are kept wholly separated from the older boys. They have the use of the play-ground, but the hours of lessons and recreation are so arranged as to differ from those of the older boys.

The Subjects taught are—1, English, treated in the simplest manner so as to secure good reading and correct spelling, together with the cultivation of the memory by moderate exercise; 2, Writing; 3, Arithmetic; 4, Geography of England; 5, the Practical Study of Natural Objects, so as to develop habits of observation; 6, the Rudiments of French. Fee per term, 4s and 3s. 6d. for stationery. For this Department the hours of attendance are from 9.35 to 3.40, in which time two hours altogether are allowed for recreation and dinner. The instruction is so arranged that one hour's preparation in the evening is, for the average of boys, sufficient.

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The School is very near the Gower-street Station of the Metropolitan Railway, and within a few minutes' walk of other Railways.

Prospectuses and further particulars may be obtained at the Office of the College.

CHARLES C. ATKINSON,

Secretary to the Council.

Dec. 22nd, 1865.

GILCHRIST SCHOLARSHIP.

Gentlemen about to present themselves for the MATRICULATION EXAMINATION of the UNIVERSITY of LONDON, next JANUARY, who are not less than Sixteen or more than Eighteen years old, are ELIGIBLE for this SCHOLARSHIP, which is worth 50l. a-year, and is tenable for three years. The Scholarship will be awarded by the result of the Matriculation Examination. Scholars will be required to reside in University Hall, Gordon-square, and attend Lectures at University College. Candidates must send a copy of registry of birth and testimonials to character, before the Examination commences, to the Principal of University Hall, Gordon-square, W.C., from whom full particulars may be obtained.

HIBBERT TRUST.—The SCHEME of EXAMINATION for HIBBERT SCHOLARSHIPS has been Revised by the Trustees, and new particulars of Examination, comprising various alterations, have been printed, copies of which may be obtained on application by letter to the Clerk of the Trustees at University Hall. The new Scheme will come into Operation at the Examination in November, 1866, when Three Scholarships will be offered. The days of Examination will be announced later.

By Order of the Trustees,

J. W. GOODIFF, Clerk.
University Hall, Gordon-square, London, W.C.,
Dec. 20, 1865.

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MRS. SAMUEL FOTHERGILL'S First-class PREPARATORY SCHOOL for YOUNG GENTLEMEN, SOMERSET HOUSE, OLD SHIRLEY, SOUTHAMPTON.—Eminently salubrious situation. Commensurate residence in the country, two miles and a-half from Southampton. Methods of Instruction and Course of Studies adapted to the advanced requirements of the age. Thorough grounding in English; Elementary Classics and Mathematics; French and German; special attention to Elocution and Drawing; Lectures and Conversational Lessons with experiments and objects in Science and Natural History. Circulars, with References, Terms, &c., on application.

Will RE-OPEN on MONDAY, 22nd January, 1866.

NORTHERN CONGREGATIONAL SCHOOL, SILCOATES HOUSE, WAKEFIELD.

Principal:

The Rev. JAMES BEWGLASS, LL.D., M.R.I.A. The above school receives, in addition to the Sons of Ministers and Missionaries, a limited number of the Sons of Laymen, who are carefully instructed in all the branches of a sound Classical, Mathematical, and Commercial Education, and are prepared for any department of business, or for entrance at the Universities.

The School will REOPEN, after the Christmas Vacation, on TUESDAY, Jan. 16, 1866.

Applications for the admission of Pupils to be addressed to the Principal.

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PRINCIPAL:—Mr. VERNY.

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For Pupils under Twelve years of age, Six Guineas.

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Cranford Hall School is on the Bath-road, twelve miles from Hyde-park Corner, and near the Hounslow, Feltham, Southall, and West Drayton Stations, at either of which Mr. Verney's conveyance meets Parents and Pupils.

TETTENHALL PROPRIETARY SCHOOL.

(MIDLAND COUNTIES PROPRIETARY SCHOOL COMPANY, LIMITED.)

The QUEEN-STREET EXHIBITION of Twenty Five Guineas, tenable for three years, will be OPEN to COMPETITION at the commencement of the next half-year. The Examination will be held on SATURDAY, the 17th January, at ten o'clock. Candidates must be under Fourteen Years of Age on the 25th, and must forward their applications, with Certificates of Birth, to the Head Master on or before the 15th JANUARY.

The subjects of examination will be the Gospel by St. Mark; Caesar de Bello Gallico, Books IV. and V.; Euclid, Books I. and II.; Arithmetic; and Algebra to Simple Equations.

TETTENHALL PROPRIETARY SCHOOL.

MIDLAND COUNTIES PROPRIETARY SCHOOL COMPANY (LIMITED).

HEAD MASTER: REV. ROBERT HALLLEY, M.A.

This School furnishes, on moderate terms, a sound and liberal Education, both Classical and Commercial, with a religious training in harmony with the principles held by Evangelical Nonconformists.

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Application for Prospectuses and Admission to be made to the Rev. G. D. Bartlett, M.A., Head Master, at the school; or to the Rev. G. Smith, D.D., Congregational Library, Blomfield-street, London.

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- 6th Its self-adjusting tension.

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Ecclesiastical Affairs.

THE YEAR.

THE Year! Even so, good reader, the year in its politico-ecclesiastical aspects—that is our topic. Is it not timely and appropriate? Does it not belong—of necessity, we had almost said—to the present season? But what of the year—the year 1865, very soon to be gathered to its predecessor? What has it done for you Liberatorists, or what have you done for it? Well, as to the last question, let the answer tarry awhile outside, and content itself with patience as its companion; but, as to the last, there is a great deal more to be said than is likely to find adequate expression. The truth is, the year has done for us a vast deal more than we have done for it—that is, the natural progress of thought, and the consequent development of it in events, have done far more to carry us forward in the direction of our desires and efforts, than anything we have purposely done with a view to progress. We have worked, have watched, have endured, have struggled, have prayed—not, we sometimes try to flatter ourselves, altogether in vain—but this year, perhaps, more than in foregoing years, the results which have become visible, pregnant as they are with future consequences, are traceable to other and higher causes than those which we have wielded. We have whistled, and the breeze has come. Our whistling may have been rather amusingly officious and superfluous, and may have no closer connection with the risen wind than Goodwin Sands have with Tenterden steeple. But whilst we whistled, we set our sails, and the breeze, come from where it may, has at least found us ready to profit by it. Perhaps, this is all we have been able to do for the year—make the best of its influences; but this by no means warrants the inference that the year has been of an unsatisfactory character.

On the contrary, if our sympathies ranged themselves on the side of the Establishment—not the Church established, but the establishment of that Church—we should look with far more apprehension upon the difficulties and the antagonism which, during the past year, have, as we may say, casually, and without any premeditated design, started up in its path, than upon anything which has avowedly aimed a blow at its supremacy. We believe in the thorough honesty, the general discretion, and the increasing influence and efficiency of the Liberation Society. But if with the views that we now hold of it we could go over to the other side, we should care far less about its activity, its wisdom, or even its self-devotion, and see in them far less cause for alarm than in the almost weekly upstart of apparently fortuitous and certainly undesigned, events which, singularly enough, have every one of them, an unfavourable bearing on the fundamental principle of State Churchism in this country, and the effect of which cannot be reasonably expected to be other than the loosening of blind attachments, the raising of unwell-

come doubts, and the opening of unsuspected vistas of light, the sight of which must needs unsettle conclusions heretofore resting on an unstable foundation. On the supposition we have stated, it would not be so much what this or that man has done, or what this or that organisation has attempted, towards severing the union between Church and State, that would excite our misgivings as to the issue, as what is perpetually and with ominous uniformity, transpiring as the unsought outcome of the system itself. Because, so far as Divine Providence impresses its laws upon human affairs, and so far as those affairs can be traced to the operations of such laws, the inference to be deduced from the signs of the times seems to be that Divine Providence is working for the overthrow of Establishments as such, and that the movements of men, however various may be their motives and their aims, are sensibly converging upon one and the same point—the setting Christian institutions free from the controlling and corrupting influence of civil governments.

Look, now, at the ecclesiastical history of the year just ending, and judge whether its tenour be or be not favourable to the perpetuation of the political management of Christian institutions! We will say nothing of the Papacy—nothing of the contest going on in France to limit sacerdotal pretensions, and to draw a clear line of distinction between temporal and spiritual sovereignty—nothing of what is being done or purposed in the kingdom of Italy. We will not dwell upon continental phenomena, because we are fully aware that in some of their phases they differ materially from those to which we, in this country, attach special significance. We may restrict our observation within the limits of the British empire, without feeling in the smallest degree at a loss for illustrations of what we mean. We have witnessed this year another stride towards the complete emancipation of our colonial Churches from legal bondage. We have had, in more than one instance, the fullest assurance that time and distance and novel conditions, including political independence, contribute nothing towards the reproduction in other soils of the system we are striving to supersede at home. We have seen Protestant Episcopal Churches, offshoots from the Church of England, anxious to cut loose the few threads that bind them to the State, and to realise in their experience all the stimulus and all the advantages that arise out of the practice of self-support and self-control. We have watched with deepest interest the development of new life in the University of Oxford, and have hailed with gratitude and with joyful exultation the emphasis with which her most distinguished alumni have asserted the justice and expediency of abolishing ecclesiastical tests, precedent to the conferring of academical honours. We have been fairly startled by clerical utterances, in the press and from the pulpit—aye! from a university pulpit—in favour of the greater part of what we mean by "religious equality." We have had a General Election, which, in place of throwing our question into the background, as was confidently predicted, placed it in a more advanced and promising position. We have observed a striking change in the tone of the press in reference to our principles. We have noticed an unmistakeable enlightenment and expansion of public opinion—especially among the educated classes. Even the triumphant termination of the American civil war has operated indirectly, but with immense force, in subduing the somewhat truculent spirit of State-Churchism displayed during the last few years. Let anyone cast his eye over our "Ecclesiastical Notes" during the twelve-month now about to expire, and he will discern in them an almost uninterrupted succession of facts casting fresh light, in the same way, upon the critical nature of the prospects which are outspread before the Church Establishment. The drift of sentiment as well as of events is in favour of complete religious equality; and the more highly cultured the intellect, the more

unhesitatingly, as a general rule, is the principle lying at the base of politico-ecclesiasticism challenged and condemned.

Now we take all this, and a great deal more of the like kind, which our limited space obliges us to leave unnoticed, as a happier augury of what is to come, than if we had achieved a brilliant legislative triumph. The enterprise to which we are committed depends for its ultimate success vastly more upon causes and influences which we cannot control, than upon those that we can. No doubt we have our allotted part in the movement, although perhaps it may be but a subsidiary part, and it is of importance that we should faithfully discharge our obligations. But, after all, the main current of opinions and events which will sweep away the unsound system of politico-ecclesiasticism, is beyond the reach of mere human management. As we could not have set it in motion, so neither can others stay its progress. It is like the tides of the ocean, of which indeed we may avail ourselves, but which we cannot sway. We have watched its flow throughout the year with gratitude and hope. It indicates to our minds an approaching future the character of which is guaranteed by a Divine purpose, and which will gradually but irresistibly overbear what now seem insurmountable obstacles. Hence, we look back upon the year with exultation, but not with pride. We see in its history increasing proof that we are working in harmony with the Power to whom there are no difficulties, and before whom opposition the most formidable to our view will melt away as the snow before the sun. And hence our faith, strengthened by retrospection, looks confidently forward, and prompts us to wish for our readers, as for all others, "A HAPPY NEW YEAR."

ECCLESIASTICAL NOTES.

THE season is redolent of hampers rather than of archdeacons. We saw the other day that more than one-third of the receipts of railway companies was derived from their parcels traffic, and after standing for a short time at the London Bridge railway-station on the ante-penultimate day before Christmas we could realise the fact. Hampers seemed to be going everywhere and to everybody. As we stood looking at the piles and heaps, we could not help imagining a little of their contents. What tears there were in some! Affection there was, raised to emotion. Never mind what might be the quality of their physical cubes. A hundred oysters, a small pig, a turkey and sausages, a humble couple of fowls, a dozen of port, or ditto of champagne,—no one who receives such a parcel at Christmas time thinks so much of the gift as of the affection which has prompted it. The feeling is the real gift. As we stood speculating, ecclesiastically inclined, on the hampers which we saw, we wondered whether any of them contained a message of peace and goodwill from the representative of one to the representative of another section of the Christian Church. Was there, for instance, a hamper from Dr. Pusey to Mr. Spurgeon? Or from Mr. Spurgeon to the Bishop of Oxford? Or from the Archbishop of Canterbury to one of the poor curates in his diocese? Or from the Bishop of London to Mr. Hinton or Mr. Binney? Or from the Chairman of the Church Institution to the Secretary of the Liberation Society, or, *vice versa*, from the Chairman of the Liberation Society to the Secretary of the Church Institution? As, indulging our imagination, these extremes of possibility occurred to us, we could not help wondering why, after all, they should be extremes. We could not answer for Church dignitaries and officials; indeed we rather imagine that although the Liberation Society has the best reason for wishing a moderately long and certainly a healthy and vigorous life to the functionaries of the Church Institution, it was possible that if a hamper were to reach

the secretary of the latter body with the well-known name of the chairman of the former he might decline to touch it. On the other hand, we thought, such is the genial, innocent, and trustful nature of Nonconformists, that if one of the said hampers were directed from the Chairman of the Church Institution—whoever he may be—to the Secretary of the Liberation Society, the latter would anticipate and realise the enjoyment of the contents with a heartiness to which, if he be a middle-aged man, he must long have been a stranger. And then we reached the moral of the whole, which not being far off was not difficult to do.

The moral is this—and it was none the worse for being preached at a railway-station from the occupants of Christmas hampers. If, out of sheer human affection, men will send these tokens to each other, how is it that even at such a time as this no tokens—not one—of divine affection ever passes from one sort of Christian to another sort of Christian? A man of a certain temperament will send, at this season of the year, a most acceptable present to another man of a totally opposite temperament; but a worthy man of a certain Church will not send an acceptable present to a worthy man of another Church, though it might tend to heal—and probably would do so—half the real divisions in Christian England if he were so to conquer his ecclesiastical pride. Without being in a particularly humorous but, on the contrary, in a grave mood, we wondered as we stood, what would be the effect of a hundred oysters being sent from the Chairman of Convocation to the Chairman of the Congregational and Baptist Unions and the President of the Wesleyan Conference? Has the former ever thought of it? If he has, we can understand why he has not done it. A man cannot hurt the opponent whom he has obliged, and he cannot do injustice to one to whom he has shown the smallest hospitality. What would be the effect of this barrel of oysters? It does not need statement. After sending them the Archbishop would relent so as to pay, this very week, a visit to the Premier, and urge the Government to bring in a bill for the total and immediate abolition of Church-rates; he would offer to "whip" the House of Lords in favour of the University Tests Abolition Bill, and declare himself utterly against the Irish Establishment, and a friend of all "conscience clauses" whatsoever. He could not help himself. A human instead of an ecclesiastical piety would possess him: that divine humanity of which we think so often at this time of the year would be upon him, and episcopacy would be lost and forgotten in Christian brotherhood.

This, at the end of the year, is the only ecclesiastical note which would respond to our touch. Why should we touch others and get nothing therefrom? There is in the *Clerical Journal* "An Eirenicon for the Feast of the Nativity," with sundry quotations from that most estimable and well-known of departed geniuses "one of our old poets," and there is a mournful note about the Church Institution "not being able to accomplish a great work," because "Churchmen generally have not co-operated with it." The writer would evidently like to seize the turkey of a Dissenter from a Christmas dinner table to pay for the decorations of his own church, in which he has preached on the same day; but we cannot get any Christmas music from such jargon or such sentiment. Nor can we from the vital question discussed in the *Churchman*, whether a clergyman who is in "the holy order of deacon only," can solemnise matrimony. Being mere human beings, it is impossible for us to take an absorbing interest in such things. We should not know a "thurble" if we saw one, and for saying so we should no doubt be denounced as a heretic by half the High-Churchmen of England. Never mind! A Christmas day, sped with good wishes, and followed up by hearty child play, is a charm against all the janathemas that all the clergy in Christendom could pronounce if they were to do nothing else—and some of them will do nothing else—from to-day until next Christmas Eve. Humanity has a happy faculty of forgetting all about the Athanasian Creed on Christmas week. Is there such a thing? We, too, should have forgotten its existence but for the force of contrast.

THE LIBERATION SOCIETY'S PRIZE BOOK.—With reference to the announcement which has appeared in our columns, of the prize of 50*l.* offered by the Committee of the Liberation Society for the production of a book adapted to young persons, we are requested to state that E. B. Underhill, Esq., LL.D., and the Rev. John Kennedy, M.A., have consented to act as adjudicators. Should it happen that they do not concur in their judgment, the matter will in that case be referred to some other gentleman appointed by the committee.

THE "REGIUM DONUM" DISTRIBUTORSHIP.—We have been informed on authority that it is no,

the intention of Government to fill up the office of distributor of Regium Donum made vacant by the decease of the Rev. Dr. Montgomery, and that the payments to the ministers will henceforth be made through the paymaster of the civil service. A like course will, we believe, be adopted in regard to similar offices when, in course of time, they lapse through the decease of their present occupants.—*Northern Whig.*

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY IN JAMAICA.—It will be seen from the resolutions which appear in our advertising columns, that the Executive Committee of the Liberation Society have resolved to take action for the preservation of the rights and liberties of the negro population of Jamaica in regard to religious worship. The Committee will not only hold itself prepared to prevent the allowance of such measures as that which has lately been submitted to the Jamaica Legislature, but will avail itself of the opportunity now presented for efforts to put an end to the system of ecclesiastical grants prevailing on the island, which, it is asserted, is fraught with injustice.

A PRIEST-BIDDEN COUNTRY.—In the kingdom of Italy, having a Catholic population of 21,000,000, there are 44 archiepiscopal and 183 episcopal sees, in all 227 sees, while in France—in a Catholic population of about 36 millions, there are only 17 archiepiscopal and 71 episcopal sees, in all 88. In Umbria, in a population of 492,829, there are 17 dioceses, i.e., one archbishop and 16 bishops, while Lombardy, with a population of 1,169,312, is under a single bishopric, that of Milan.

RELIGIOUS TRAINING OF ORPHANS.—A singular case came before Vice-Chancellor Stuart last week. The late Mr. Newbery was a clergyman of the Church of England, and he appointed his wife and a brother clergyman joint guardians of his children. Not long since the widow joined the sect of Dissenters called the Plymouth Brethren, and thereupon a difference arose between her and the other guardian as to the religious bringing up of the infants. The eldest child, a boy of fifteen, made an affidavit that he had attended the religious services of the Plymouth Brethren, and conscientiously approved of their opinions, but the Vice-Chancellor, without, so far as appears by the report of the case, testing the truth of this allegation by a private conference with the boy, decided that both he and his sister must be brought up in the religion of their father.

THE BISHOP OF GRAHAMSTOWN ON DR. COLENSO.—The Bishop of Grahamstown (Dr. Cotteril), it appears, supports the Bishop of Capetown in the course he has taken towards Bishop Colenso, and is in favour of the election and consecration of another bishop for the diocese of Natal. "Whatever imperfections there are imagined to be or really were, in the tribunal which deprived him (Dr. Colenso), it was the only tribunal competent, either on principles of equity, or according to the order of the Church, to pronounce that sentence. We, the bishops of South Africa—for here I know I may speak for every one of my brethren—call upon the Church of England formally and publicly to recognise this deposition, and to declare, not merely that we have the sympathies of Christ's people in our efforts to maintain His truth—this we cannot doubt—but also that an act performed according to the laws of the Church, for the maintenance of that truth, is ecclesiastically valid."

THE EXPENDITURE, &c., OF THE FREE CHURCHES OF LONDON.—In the large table showing the expenditure, schools, &c., of some 150 of the Independent and Baptist churches of the metropolis, which appeared in our supplement of the 13th inst., there were some errors and omissions. In the reference to the Poultry Chapel, we omitted to state that there are connected with it two day schools, with an average attendance of 200 scholars. In addition to the Mission station in Milton-street, which was commenced about ten years ago, and cost about £700 to adapt for the purpose, Dr. Spence's people have a public service in a room in Tye Foot-lane, near Bread-street-hill, and have expended, in addition to the sums mentioned, at least £1,000 in repairs, &c., since 1851. If opportunity had offered, the mission carried on in Milton-street, which has, according to police testimony, wrought a great change in the neighbourhood, would have been worthy of separate notice. Again, the Baptist Chapel in Praed-street, Paddington, which is included in our list, was erected in 1819, and the sum given is mainly for the cost of a new chapel yet to be built. In the case of Avenue Congregational Church, Erith, £1,460 was a misprint for £460.

THE NEW ORDER OF LAY DEACONS.—The Archdeacon of London made a statement to the assembled clergy on Thursday afternoon, at the close of a meeting on Convocation reform, in reference to a proposed new order of lay deacons in the Church, about which many erroneous reports have appeared in the Church papers. He said that a meeting of gentlemen interested in the subject was held at his house a few days since, when it was held that the time had come for recognising lay agency in the Church, inasmuch as it was known that a great many persons were willing to help. He had undertaken to receive the names of gentlemen who were so disposed. For the step now taken he had the authority of the Archbishops of Canterbury and York and the Bishop of London; indeed the Bishop of London wished it to be known that the course now adopted was taken with his full approbation. When the names of gentlemen were sent in, it would be considered how this important matter could be put into due order and regularity. In reply to questions from the clergy, the Archdeacon explained that the duty of the new order of deacons would be to assist the ordained ministers, but at present there certainly was

a difficulty as to the authority that should be committed to them. That at present was a matter which had not been defined. When the number of gentlemen willing to help was known he thought there would not be much difficulty in defining the authority which should be conferred upon them. He hoped this public invitation to persons to come forward to engage in the work would be a prelude to a calm consideration of the whole matter by the heads of the Church. The Rev. A. J. Ram (Bural Dean) and other clergymen said they knew persons who would be willing to assist, but that they felt some delicacy in coming forward until they knew what would be the nature of the duties required.

THE SUNDAY QUESTION.—Dr. Norman Macleod has just published in a pamphlet the substance of his late speech before the Glasgow Presbytery, "On the Sabbatarian Question." In his preface, he says, that so far as in him lies, he will not be dragged into any further controversy in the matter; he leaves the matter to younger men. In an appendix he supplements his case by quotations from Milton, Luther, Cranmer, Whateley, Alford, Doddridge, John Knox, Jeremy Taylor, Bunyan, and others, with the view of showing that the extreme views as to Sabbath observance which are held in Scotland have no sanction from those who are usually regarded as the greatest authorities in the interpretation of Scripture. Dr. Macleod was accused of exaggeration in his statement about the objection to shaving on the Sunday, but he gives a letter from a gentleman, whose name is added, in which we read:—"Shortly after your speech on the Sabbath question, at the meeting of the Glasgow Presbytery, I was in company with three West Highland ministers of the Established Church, to whom I expressed my doubts as to the correctness of your assertion, that a considerable number of ministers abstained from shaving on Sundays from conscientious motives. To my great surprise, I found that two out of the three themselves performed the operation overnight for fear of breaking the Sabbath; and the third mentioned, that when he was a student, he was found fault with for not having a close-shaven chin on Monday, the inference being, that as he had not shaved that day, he probably had done so on the one immediately preceding."

THE OPPOSITION TO THE SUNDAY LEAGUE.—In an address recently delivered at the Lambeth Baths, and published in last Saturday's *South London Chronicle*, Mr. Murphy thus summarises the present position of the Sunday League and its opponents:—The Sunday League claimed and asserted,—1. That they had a number of special constables to keep order, during some anticipated raid on the museums.—Not proved, nor even re-asserted. 2. That they represented the working men of London.—No proof afforded; rather the reverse. 3. That they represented 200,000 of the working men. This has been since reduced by the secretary to 50,000—a slight discrepancy of 150,000; but still no proof that they represent even the smaller number. 4. That they represented 200 trades-societies.—Reduced by Mr. Langley, at St. Martin's-hall meeting, to "about 60." 5. That publicans who filled their houses with pictures had them crowded on the afternoon and evening of Sunday.—Statement unsupported. 6. That working men cannot visit museums and galleries in the week evenings.—Not a shadow of evidence given in support of the statement. 7. That the deputation to Earl Granville on the 23rd of November was composed of city missionaries.—No city missionary accompanied the deputation. 8. That the deputation was largely composed of members of Young Men's Christian Associations. No member of such an association was present. 9. That they had not a working man, in the ordinary acceptance of the term, among the deputation. They had a sawyer, a deal-porter, a bricklayer, a painter, an engineer, a tailor, a carpenter, a postman, a milkman, a working clock-maker, a coach-carver, a shoemaker, a corn-dealer, an ironmonger, an artificial flower maker, and a builder. 10. The deputation mainly consisted of persons that attended Dissenting chapels. This was the only genuine assertion made, at least as published, either before Lord Granville, or at the special or general Sunday League meetings. But, surely, when a man is guilty of the heinous offence of being a Dissenter, he does not forfeit his rights as a citizen. Happily the Sunday League was not yet in power, so that it was not felony to attend a chapel, or, thanks to the chapel-goers, even to go to Cambridge-hall. So that we have the Sunday League sending forth nine unfounded utterances, to one authentic statement, and the latter has no bearing at all on the question at issue. But do they disprove the statements made in the memorial presented by the deputation of Nov. 23rd? These were: 1. That the question should be left to Scripture, reason, and argument, and the general influence of a wise political economy. 2. That if there was any feeling at all about the Raphael Cartoons being removed to Kensington, it was in favour of, and not against, the removal. 3. That the working men of London, as such, had given no authority for the Sunday League to speak in their name. 4. That no recent meetings of the trades have been called to give a voice on this special subject. 5. That the wishes of the great bulk of the people were in favour of less Sunday labour, rather than more. 6. That fewer hours of labour on week days and earlier closing of shops was the desideratum, and not the Sunday opening of the national institutions. 7. It was not true that public-houses were crowded, at least in South London, on Sunday afternoons and evenings, from a love of the fine arts. 8. That the attendance at Working Men's Industrial Exhibitions, Popular Lec-

tures, &c., proved that working men could and would attend week-evening meetings and collections, in which they are interested. 9. That 71 petitions to Parliament were prepared and signed by upwards of 13,000 men in factories, chiefly in the South of London, and presented to the House of Commons during last session, praying for the opening of museums, &c., on the week evenings. 10. That whoever the Sunday League deputation did or did not represent, the deputation of Nov. 23rd emphatically denied their right or authority to represent them. Not one of these positions was assailed, or could have been successfully controverted, and this the noisy Sunday Leaguers knew; and so, while the meeting at which his character for truthfulness and fairness was attacked was held in one place, he was constrained to defend himself in another. . . . He most heartily endorsed the sentiment contained in the amendment he had the honour to propose, but which the chairman had not the fairness or the courtesy to put to the meeting, that "Sunday labour is a curse to the people, and that the opening of museums on the Sabbath is most undesirable, as it would deprive thousands of working men of necessary Sunday rest"; and he as emphatically believed that the representation of the people was too sacred a thing to be entrusted to the scarcely concealed jugglery of a Sunday League, or the back-parlour coterie of a trade-society's committee.

Religious Intelligence.

WESTMINSTER CHAPEL.—A second bazaar in aid of the funds for rebuilding Westminster Chapel will be held in the schoolrooms adjoining the chapel, James-street, Buckingham-gate, this day, Thursday, and Friday next. It is expected that there will be several Christmas trees at the bazaar, and it is suggested that this will be a favourable opportunity for purchasing Christmas presents.

BERMONDSEY.—The second anniversary of the opening of Alfred-street Chapel was celebrated on Tuesday, Dec. 12, by a tea and public meeting. 140 partook of tea, after which the chair was taken by Dr. Raleigh, of Canonbury. The reports of secretary and treasurer were read, in which it was stated that the various operations, including Sunday-schools, Band of Hope, popular lectures, tract distribution, &c., had been efficiently carried on during the past year—that eleven members had been received into the church, only two of whom had been transferred from other churches; that about 44% had been collected by the congregation in support of the work; and that there was a general improvement in attendance on Divine service, as compared with last year, whilst the Sabbath-school is quite full. Addresses were delivered by the chairman, the Rev. A. McAulane, R. Seddon, J. Frame, G. McAll, J. Sinclair and R. Sinclair, R. Forsaith, W. Dalgleish, and T. Shaw, Esqs.

LONDON.—MILE-END-ROAD CHAPEL.—The anniversary services of this chapel took place last week, sermons being preached on Sunday by the Rev. J. McAulane, of Finsbury, and the Rev. J. Chew, the pastor. A tea and public meeting was held on Tuesday, at the latter of which the Right Hon. Lord Teynham presided, being supported by the pastor, the Revs. J. Kennedy, M.A., W. Tyler, E. Schnadhorst, J. Bowrey, H. Banks, and Messrs. F. P. Martindale, Butteau, Last, Clements, and Whorlow. Mr. Martindale stated that a very large debt, which had crippled this cause for many years, was now nearly removed, only 60% remaining to be raised. The Rev. J. Chew referred to the gratifying progress of the cause spiritually, to the earnestness of the church, the continual accessions to it, the increasing congregations, and the crowded state of the schools. The Revs. J. Kennedy, M.A., Tyler, Schnadhorst, Bowrey, and Banks, gave most instructive and interesting addresses, and the noble chairman, after remarking how much pleasure it gave him to be of any service to the cause at Mile-end-road Chapel, made a practical and edifying speech.

NEW CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL, STOKE ORCHARD.—On Friday week, the foundation-stone of a new chapel was laid at Stoke Orchard, by F. Crompton, Esq., of Wingmore House, Cleve. For some time past Divine service has been performed in a cottage in the village, but as "the place has become too strait" for those who wished to attend, Mr. John Lance, a member of the Congregational Church, Cheltenham, purchased a piece of ground, and resolved to apply to his friends to co-operate with him in erecting a sanctuary for God among the poor and neglected inhabitants of Stoke and the surrounding district. The appeal has been successful, and nearly sufficient money has been raised for the purpose of building a neat, commodious, and convenient place of worship. The service at the laying of the foundation-stone was an interesting one, and a large number of the inhabitants were present. A hymn, given out by Mr. William Graham, was sung; after which Mr. Crompton laid the stone, and in an appropriate speech addressed the assembly. He was followed by the Rev. Dr. Morton Brown, who offered prayer to Almighty God for his blessing on the undertaking and on all concerned. The Doxology was afterwards sung, and the blessing pronounced.

GRIMSBY.—On Monday, the 11th inst., special services were held in connection with the ordination of the Rev. Robert Shepherd, minister of Spring Congregational church, Grimsby. For nearly six years Mr. Shepherd has laboured there with much acceptance and success, having been instrumental in erecting a fine church and schools, which are now free of debt, and in gathering around him a good congregation.

Public service began a little after two o'clock. The Rev. H. Ollerenshaw, of Hull, read the Scriptures and offered prayer. The Rev. Professor Tyte, of Rotherham College, delivered the introductory discourse on Congregational church principles. The Rev. J. Sibree, of Hull, proposed the usual questions, which having been satisfactorily answered, the Rev. James Bruce, of Liverpool, Mr. Shepherd's former pastor, offered the ordination prayer, during which the young minister was set apart to the pastorate of the church and the service of Christ by the laying on of the hands of the brethren. The charge to the minister was then delivered by the Rev. Dr. Falding, of Rotherham, from the words of Paul to Timothy, "Make full proof of thy ministry." A public tea-meeting was afterwards held in the Mechanics' Hall, which was completely filled. Afterwards the company returned to the church, when the Rev. R. Shepherd took the chair, and addresses were delivered to a large and attentive audience by the Revs. H. Ollerenshaw, of Hull; W. Herbert, of Louth; J. Bruce, of Liverpool; T. Rain, of Cottingham; Robert Kerr, of Caistor; and T. Ruston, of Barton-on-Humber.

Correspondence.

A CAUTION—SHREWSBURY CHURCH-RATE CASE.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—I find that there has been issued in the provinces a circular to which my name is attached, authorising a Mr. Joseph L. Williams to receive contributions for the fund now being raised for the benefit of Mr. Jones, of Shrewsbury.

As the circular is a fabrication, and no person has received such an appointment, I need not describe, as I could do, the appearance of the individual in question, because I assume that, after this intimation, he is not likely to relieve any of your readers of their cash. If they have any of that to spare for the case, it will reach the hands of the right party if transmitted to Mr. J. W. Woodall, Mardol Head, Shrewsbury.

Your obedient servant,

J. CARVELL WILLIAMS.

Serjeants'-inn, London, Dec. 23.

THE BAPTIST UNION AND JAMAICA.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

DEAR SIR,—The following resolution, adopted on Tuesday last by the Committee of the Baptist Union, has been forwarded to Earl Russell:—

"That this Committee regard with serious apprehension the disposition recently evinced by the Government of Jamaica to lay legal restraints on the liberty of public worship, and therefore earnestly and confidently hope that her Majesty's Ministers will promptly instruct the Colonial Government to desist from such oppressive and uncalled-for proceedings."

I am, dear Sir, yours faithfully,

JAMES H. MILLARD, Secretary.

Huntingdon, Dec. 23, 1865.

THE GRIEVANCES OF JAMAICA.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—Every one concerned about the honour of England must be gratified with the tone of the numerous public meetings which have been held, relative to recent events in the island of Jamaica. But although these meetings have been useful in giving utterance to the public feeling of sympathy for the oppressed, and the public desire for justice to be done to all parties, it may not be out of place to direct attention to the state of the inhabitants of Jamaica antecedent to the recent outbreak; for with whatever degree of justice that disturbance might be termed a rebellion on the part of the blacks, and to whatever extent that rebellion (if it were such), proceeded, either in design or action, there can be no manner of doubt that the condition of the people lies at the foundation of it.

The statements which follow are, in every instance where practicable, in the exact words of reports from about seventy places in twenty parishes, furnished to the local legislature at the request of the Governor, and from other documents, and those that are not exact quotations are founded upon authorities. For clearness and economy of space, they are arranged under distinct headings.

Physical Condition of the People.—In a climate where the average temperature is from 70 deg. to 80 deg., and even in the higher lands, at an elevation of 4,000 feet above the sea, seldom below 55 deg., and amongst the lower class of people in such a country, the lack of clothing or of food must be far greater than in our country before destitution would be generally complained of; but some such conditions appear to prevail.

Much poverty and distress; want of work; want of money want of clothes. Some are naked.

Many are unable to meet necessary wants. Many children are completely stunted through want of proper and sufficient food.

Many once well-to-do families have been reduced to a state of absolute poverty. Too many are to be met with but half-clad, and some grown-up persons entirely naked.

Formerly the people built good houses, and took a pride in being nicely dressed, and some of them saved money; but now few good houses are built, and the people are not well clad.

The largest retail provision dealer states that his sales are fifty per cent. less than they were.

Former and present prices of provisions:—

	Formerly.	Now.
Salt fish	3d.	6d.
Herrings	4 for 3d.	2 for 3d.
Salt beef	4½d.	6d. to 10½d.
Rice	4½d.	7½d.
Flour	3d.	6d.

Industrial.—Employment is scarce and wages low. Numbers of Coolie, Chinese, and African labourers have been brought into the island and indentured to the planters. It appears that in most districts small quantities of land can be rented by the labouring class at rates averaging 20s. to 24s. per acre; but there are hindrances to the practice becoming general. Among these may be named—uncertainty of the holding of

rented land; insecurity of produce upon the land, being exposed to the depredations of those who are now driven by want to steal, and of a numerous vagabond class grown up in the absence of proper poor-law and other administration; the neglected state of the roads to the settlements of the peasantry; and the heavy taxes imposed upon animals and implements of industry. Co-operative societies are beginning to be talked about, but there is a diversity of opinion as to their probable success.

There is decidedly less employment than in former years. Many persons go from property to property, unable to get work. The number of Coolies employed is much smaller, and on many estates the greater part of the work done is by immigrants.

Work was more easily obtained in this district formerly than now, because so many properties have been thrown up, and because of the introduction of Coolies and Africans.

Irregular payment of wages

Wages on the estates have been reduced at least twenty-five per cent.

Men formerly 1s. 6d., now 9d. to 1s. Women formerly 1s., now 6d. to 9d. Children, 3d. to 4½d. per day.

Social, Moral and Religious.—The following extracts tell their own tale, and indicate the sad state into which the island has fallen:—

There are in many districts sad signs of that social demoralisation which, in times of deep distress, have been witnessed in other countries. The young refuse to submit to parental control, and break away from the restraints of home and religious society, reckless of consequences. Few marriages take place; and young men and women live in open concubinage. Licentiousness, cases of violence, and homicide are frequent; stealing, especially of growing crops, has increased to an alarming extent; and our prisons are filled to overflowing.

Marriage contracts are neglected, and an amount of immorality is spreading over the land most frightful to contemplate. People who, when they could dress with propriety, were in the habit of regularly attending public worship on the Lord's day, and were in the practice of sending their children to school, are now disregarding those duties, and permitting their offspring to grow up in ignorance that must be productive of the most serious evils.

Decreased attendance of children at day-schools. Falling off of religious contributions. Numbers stay away from public worship for want of decent clothing.

Legislation.—The population of Jamaica is somewhat over 440,000. There is a House of Assembly composed of 47 members, representing 22 constituencies. In 1862 there were 2,022 electors. In addition to possessing the legal qualification, every one voting either in parliamentary or parochial elections must pay a fee of 10s. per annum to be put and kept upon the register; and of the 64, freeholders, those who do not pay direct taxes to the amount of 30s. are disfranchised. There is an Established Church, supported by annual grants out of the revenue to the amount of 45,000£. About one-eighth of the population accept of its ministrations; so that every man, woman, and child in the island is taxed to the amount of 2s. per head to defray the expenses incurred at the rate of 17s. per head by those who attend the Established Church. The taxation of the country is imposed with singular neglect and disregard of the example of the mother country. The principles of free trade are not recognised at all. Heavy taxes are laid upon the most necessary articles of food and clothing, and consequently press with disproportionate weight upon the poor. Even their animals and implements of industry are taxed.

There is an *ad valorem* duty upon clothing of 12½ per cent.; and as the value of goods has greatly increased, so the duty has increased too.

Flour pays a duty of 80 per cent.

Herrings " 14 "

Salt fish " 22 "

Beef " 25 "

Candles " 13 "

Soap " 22 "

Butter " 14 "

Rice " 31 "

Tea " 60 "

Alc and Beer " 50 "

Carts pay a tax of 6s. per wheel. Horses and mules 11s. per head. Donkeys, 3s. 6d. per head. Working stock on an estate, 6d. per head.

Considerable sums of money, amounting to 400,000£., have been spent out of the revenue in emigration schemes; the native labourer being made to pay the expense of bringing foreigners to take the bread out of his mouth. The compounding of felonies—a punishable offence in this country—has been legalised in Jamaica. Thus, if a thief be caught upon an estate, the owner may inflict a fine or a flogging upon him, without the intervention of a magistrate. The poor law (if any at all exist) is very defective; and there is no law to compel the paternal support of illegitimate children. The administration, as well as enactment, of laws is complained of as being partial. But let the following statements speak for themselves:—

The whole system of taxation is wanting in the consideration which the mother country exercises towards the industrial classes. The burden of taxation, which for many years it has been the policy of the Home Government to throw upon the better-to-do-classes, to the relief of the poorer, is in Jamaica imposed upon the latter without regard to their being less able to bear it.

Taxation, and the extravagant import duties on food and unmanufactured articles, press heavily on the labouring classes.

The law requiring those who have a donkey to pay 3s. 6d., and those having a horse to pay 11s., whilst the sugar proprietor pays only 6d. per head for working stock, is unfair.

The tax on cart-wheels, at 6s. per wheel, is oppressive.

Vast sums are spent on the main roads, and on those which lead to estates, or to gentlemen's country mansions, whilst those which lead to the villages and freeholds of the people are sadly neglected, and many of them are dangerous to travel over.

The emigration laws are considered most unjust. Emigrants have been brought by thousands into the country, and the very people whose labour they have displaced have been compelled by law to pay for bringing them here, and have to provide for them in the gaols, hospitals, and poor houses. A heavy debt has been contracted for these schemes, against the desires and interests of the masses, which is saddled on them and their children for years to come.

The want of a sufficient legal provision for the support of illegitimate and friendless children and of aged persons. It is believed that a large portion of the young criminals that fill our goals are orphans, chiefly children of those parents who were cut off by cholera and small-pox from 1850 to 1852, and have grown up without parental control or moral training; and also of illegitimate children cast out upon the world from their infancy.

The laws inflicting an Ecclesiastical Establishment on the people are unjust and most injurious to religion. The labouring poor have, at the same time, to maintain their own places of worship, and are compelled by law to meet the pecuniary requirements of the Church of the few and the rich.

The impossibility of the labourer getting justice in the courts of law in disputes respecting wages.

There is much corruption in our petty courts, which tells against the labouring people.

It must be considered that the administration of the law is principally in the hands of one class of persons (the planters), except in the towns, and there is a widespread impression that the law as administered by them is not always fair and just.

With such representations as these before us, whilst we may justly be anxious that the conduct of officials in the suppression of disturbances should be strictly inquired into, we ought not to forget that the work of seeing to the good government and consequent prosperity and happiness of nearly half a million of our fellow subjects devolves upon us. The violation of law is bad enough; the absence of law, or the continued exercise of pernicious enactments, is worse.

I am, Sir, yours truly,
S. GOSSLING.

Bilston, Dec. 23, 1865.

APPALLING CONDITION OF THE AMERICAN FREEDMEN.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

ESTEEMED FRIEND,—The kindness of the British press in the insertion of articles and letters on behalf of the four millions of suffering freed people in America has been of immense service.

In various ways—in cash, implements, clothing, &c.—help has been rendered to the extent of between 50,000*l.* and 60,000*l.*

Still, our worst fears for these poor creatures for the ensuing winter are likely to be far exceeded; as even those but little acquainted with the subject may in part judge from the subjoined letter of General Saxton, of the American Freed Men's Bureau, and from extracts from two fully reliable letters, since received by myself, as one of the secretaries and treasurers of the Birmingham and Midland Freedmen's Aid Association, within a few days.

The sternness of the American winter is terribly trying to the well-fed, well-clothed, and well-housed; what it is likely to prove to hundreds of thousands of these poor destitute creatures the testimony at the foot of this letter too surely and too sadly indicates.

May I most earnestly urge such of thy readers as have the ability to send help at once? We have already been enabled to purchase 1,000 pairs of blankets since the receipt of General Saxton's letter (within the last three weeks). Thousands of pairs besides are available, on the most advantageous terms, had we but the means of purchasing them. One sum of 200*l.*, another of 50*l.*, and several smaller amounts, have enabled us to do thus much. Hereford, also, has sent us 50*l.*, and several ladies' circles are in full work there, making up warm garments, &c., especially for the freed women and children, 800,000 of the latter being orphans. We are looking daily for an equal amount just contributed at Neath. May I most earnestly urge others promptly to imitate these examples?

I am persuaded that thy insertion of this letter, and its accompanying intelligence, will induce some of thy readers liberally to respond, according to their ability; especially to aid in the purchase of blankets for the winter.

This appeal is made—not on political grounds, for our Association comprehends gentlemen of every shade of politics, but on grounds of humanity and Christian philanthropy.

I shall be willing to supply any information in my power gratuitously to persons wishing for the same, as to the freed people, as to contributions of money, implements, and clothing, and as to the formation of sewing-circles.

Meanwhile, contributions may be paid to Lloyd's Banking Company, Birmingham, to the account of Edward Gem (chairman and treasurer); or to myself, through the same medium, or directly.

Thine very truly,
BENJAMIN H. CADBURY,
Secretary and Treasurer to the Birmingham and
Midland Freedmen's Aid Association.
Grove House, Edgbaston, Birmingham,
Nov. 27, 1865.

"Bureau, Refugees, Freedmen, &c., South
Carolina and Georgia.

"Charleston, S.C., October 12, 1865.

"My dear Sir,—I deem it my duty to call your attention to the fact that great numbers of destitute persons, for whose protection this Bureau was established, call again for the benevolence of the North. Unless clothing of all kinds is furnished there must be great suffering and loss of life during the inclement season now approaching. The means at the disposal of the Freedmen's Bureau are entirely inadequate to meet the pressing demands of destitute humanity. Blankets, woolen shirts, pantaloons, women's and children's under clothing, and dresses, shoes and stockings, of all sizes, are needed.

"Great portions of these two States have been desolated and laid waste by the late war. Industry has been interrupted, and over large districts entirely suspended; and thousands of people are utterly destitute.

"Thirty-five thousand blankets are needed in South Carolina and on the Sea Islands alone. Every necessary article of wearing apparel which you can send will be the means of saving some one from suffering. Great care will be used in the distribution of the clothing and supplies sent, as an officer will be specially appointed to acknowledge the receipt of the above articles, and attend to their distribution.

"I am, Sir, with great respect,
Your obedient servant,

"R. SAXTON.

"Joel Cadbury, jun., Friends' Freedmen's Relief
Association, Philadelphia."

Extract from a letter from J. McKim, Corresponding Secretary of the Eastern Department, American Freedmen's Aid Commission:—

"69, Nassau-street, New York, Nov. 14, 1865.

"We have commenced our winter campaign with vigour and earnestness; and well we may, for the work before us is appalling, from its colossal and almost unmanageable magnitude.

"The ravages of the war, and the impoverishment thereby of whole States in the South, will be followed this winter by incredible suffering, much of which will be beyond our power to relieve. It is computed that

30,000 of the freedmen in Georgia alone will die this winter from exposure and destitution! Our commission, which has just been in session in this city, has been receiving testimony from the highest and most trustworthy sources, and has reached the conclusion that hundreds of thousands in the South will need our aid this winter, and that, spite of all we can do, tens of thousands will perish! It is truly fearful; and were not the facts in detail fairly before us, and that in testimony above impeachment, we should be incredulous from their sheer enormity.

"Then their moral, intellectual, and social wants are as pressing and imperative as their physical. These people must have instruction,—and how can they learn without a teacher? And how shall they teach, except they be sent? And how shall they be sent, without money?

"We find that instruction and physical aid—to make either fully effective—must go hand in hand. Instruction adds one hundred per cent. to the value of material relief. That is to say—Five hundred dollars and a school will go further in ministering to want and promoting physical comfort than one thousand dollars worth of clothes without a school.

"Think of these things, ye good and well-to-do people in England, who have not been cursed by slavery and harried by war."

From J. F. Larkin, Treasurer of the Western Freedmen's Aid Commission.

"No. 25, West Third-street, Cincinnati,
Nov. 9, 1865.

"The duties and responsibilities of our work are increasing, and we are often upon the point of saying, 'These things are too great for us;' yet notwithstanding the magnitude of the work, we have faith to believe we shall be able to make good and useful citizens of the freed people. Our mutual friend, Levi Coffin, is unwavering and untiring in his labours for their benefit, having the character of a disinterested labourer for Christ's poor. We can never feel thankful enough to our tried friends in England for their timely aid in this good work."

CURES FOR THE CATTLE PLAGUE.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

DEAR SIR,—I enclose for your perusal, and for any other use you may choose to make of it, a copy of a letter addressed by myself to the Cattle Plague Commissioners, but which has not received the courtesy of an acknowledgment. There appeared in Monday's *Times* a letter from "M. D." confirming the opinion before expressed that the cattle disease is "nothing more or less than small-pox in a suppressed form." If this really be the case, there appears the strongest reason to believe that the treatment advocated in my letter would be remedial.

I remain, dear Sir, yours very faithfully,

CHARLES ROSE.

Dorking, Dec. 22, 1865.

Dorking, Nov. 24, 1865.

My Lords and Gentlemen,—Her Majesty the Queen having been graciously pleased to commission you "fully to investigate the origin and nature, and to ascertain, as far as possible, the mode of treatment best adapted for the cure of a contagious and infectious disorder generally designated the cattle plague," I beg most respectfully to offer some suggestions on the subject of your inquiry.

In the report just issued by your right honourable commission, you state the cattle plague to be, in the language of medicine, a specific disease, belonging to the class of contagious fevers. Your report further affirms that the contagious matter is subtle, volatile, prolific in an unexampled degree, and that the malady lurks undeveloped in the system for a period, about which some difference of opinion exists, which certainly is not less than five days, usually seven or eight, but appears to be more prolonged in some cases. From this description of the disease, and from other representations of it in the report, there appears to be no doubt that it possesses the common characteristics of the class to which it is said to belong.

The theory is probably a correct one, that the germ of infectious febrile diseases is an aerial impalpable poison, which, on being inhaled into the lungs, comes in contact with and contaminates the blood; that a period of incubation ensues; and that this is succeeded by the fermentation and decomposition of the vital fluid, and consequent disease of the entire system. In an able paper on "Contagious Diseases," read by Dr. Lankester at the recent Social Science Congress, the author "looked upon the poison of these diseases as produced in the blood, and considered small-pox as the type of all such diseases, and that reason and analogy showed that typhus fever, typhoid fever, scarlet fever, measles, and whooping cough, and cholera, belonged to the same group." If this view of the subject be accurate—and there appears to be no reason to doubt it—the seat of maladies of this class is in the blood, and a specific is needed to fortify the vital fluid against the invasion of the disease-producing miasm, and to "neutralise or expel the poison when the blood is already vitiated—in other words, a specific to prevent and cure the disease. The interesting experiments of Dr. Tolli, of Milan, are highly suggestive as to the employment of remedial measures in contagious diseases. These experiments were thus referred to at the opening of the medical session at St. George's Hospital, in September, 1863:—

Dr. Tolli, of Milan, had recently published a very interesting series of experiments, by which he showed that sulphurous acid, in combination with potash, or soda, possessed in an eminent degree the power of arresting organic fermentations and putrefactive changes in animals' solids and fluids. He found that those preparations which are called the sulphates (the sulphate of soda, or of potash, or of lime) were perfectly harmless when taken into the living body; and the idea occurred to him that these same preparations which exercised such a powerful influence in preventing decomposition out of the body, might also prevent similar action in living animals. Dr. Tolli gave them the details of sixty-eight experiments, which appear to have been most carefully made. Several dogs had some putrid blood injected into their veins, and being subsequently left to themselves, they all died, with one exception. An equal number of dogs had some large and repeated doses of the sulphates administered, and subsequently had the same quantity of putrid blood injected. These all recovered. More than this, Dr. Tolli found that if he mixed the putrid blood with a certain proportion of bisulphate of soda, before he injected it, the dogs did not die as when the putrid blood alone was used. Should Dr. Tolli's experiments be confirmed

by subsequent observation, and should his anticipations be realised, they would have in these preparations containing sulphurous acid a means of counteracting in a great measure, not the affections which arise from decomposition of the fibrin of the blood only, but a very large class of diseases which had hitherto defied the utmost efforts of the physician. Dr. Tolli mentioned among the zymotic diseases which he supposed to depend upon a fermenting principle in the blood, cholera, typhus, puerperal fever, glanders, black vomit, dissecting wounds, marish fevers, &c., and if his conclusions were confirmed, these diseases would now be capable of prevention in a number of instances; in others they would be no longer fatal, they would be as amenable to treatment as other disorders. An army might be rendered safe from the devastation of typhus, and a military hospital from the scourge of gangrene.

These experiments of Dr. Tolli afford an interesting confirmation of the theory which led to their trial, viz., "that preparations which exercise a powerful influence in preventing decomposition out of the body, prevent also similar action in living animals." The importance of such a fact cannot be overrated in the pursuit of a specific for the cattle plague.

Acids and alkalis have been long and favourably known as remedies in febrile diseases. The employment of salines in the cattle plague is recommended in the report of your right honourable commission. The value of neutral salts as antidotes to the same condition of the blood as that incident to those diseases, is demonstrated by the experiments referred to.

It may be asked, is there not in the efficacy of this class of remedies some clue to future important scientific discoveries as to the cure of blood-fermenting diseases? It is certainly an interesting fact that two medicinal agents, which, when added together, produce effervescence, and the product of such fermentation, should be curative of the fermentation of the blood. The fact is even still more suggestive with regard to the bitartrate of potash—an acid with a salifiable base, the product of vinous fermentation.

Whether the remarks of Paracelsus respecting this salt, that "it is the principle of every disease, and of every remedy, and all things contain the germ of it," have a basis on truth or not, it is a matter of fact, confirmed by professional testimony, that in two of the diseases classified in the same group as the cattle plague—cholera and small-pox, the latter, according to Dr. Lankester, the type of the class—it is highly remedial.

The following letter, attesting the efficacy of the bitartrate of potash in cholera, appeared in the *Times* of the 1st of September last:—

Sir,—As England appears likely to be visited by the present epidemic of cholera, my experience of it in India induces me to solicit you kindly to give publicity to a medicine which is about the only one I can with confidence recommend as having a beneficial influence in this deadly scourge.

It is simply a solution of the bitartrate of potash, from one to three drachms, to a pint of water, flavoured with lemon peel and a little sugar, and given as a drink frequently and in small quantities, until the violence of the attack has ceased. I have given as much as twenty drachms in this way in twenty-four hours.

It is wonderfully relieved by the patient; it allays the vomiting, and to a great extent, quenches the incessant thirst, and, by supplying to the blood some of the salts and water of which it is deprived by the disease, it retains its albumen in a soluble condition: and thus restores these indispensably necessary elements, and renders material assistance to the vital powers, to eliminate the poison and conquer the disease.

I remain, yours, &c.,
MEDICUS.

Montreal, Aug. 18.

The efficacy of the bitartrate of potash in variola is more amply verified. A pamphlet on this remedial agent, as "a cure for small-pox," written by myself, and published in 1863, contains, among a mass of other evidence as to its virtue, the following letter from G. R. Paxton, Esq., M.R.C.S., residing at Dorking:—

Dorking, Surrey, July 21st, 1863.

Dear Sir,—I beg to inform you that I have given the bitartrate of potash in three cases of small-pox; two occurring lately, about five miles from here, and one a year ago.

In two cases, advanced to the pustular stage of the disease, it had the immediate effect of subduing the fever, dispelling the swelling of the head and face, and arresting the suppuration of the pustules, thereby preventing the disfigurement of "pitting."

In the third case, consequent upon nursing one of the former, the eruptive stage, which was severe, speedily subsided into a scanty and scattered crop of minute pustules, appearing one day and becoming shrivelled and decaying in the next.

Expressions of great relief followed the exhibition of the medicine, and convalescence was rapid.

These cases, insignificant perhaps in themselves, go far to confirm the success of the treatment of variola, so fully described by you in so many instances, and my faith in its efficacy is such, that I should administer it in every case of small-pox that I may be called upon to treat.

I remain, dear Sir, yours very truly,
GEO. R. PAXTON.

Mr. Charles Rose.

The remedial properties of the same medicine in variola have been also proved and attested by Dr. Stowell, M.R.C.S., of Brighton, who, acting on my suggestion, has administered it in a somewhat different mode. In a lecture on "Small-pox and Vaccination," an epitome of which appears in the second report of the British Medical Reform Association, recently published, Dr. Stowell thus refers to its effects:—"When called to a case, either distinct or confluent, I immediately gave to an adult six drachms of the bitartrate of potash, in half a pint of hot milk, as a draught. This soon produced diaphoresis, an abundance of turbid urines and instant relief, the skin and kidneys evidently throwing off morbid matter, the poisonous fermentation of the blood neutralised, the mind free, the appetite in most cases tolerably good." Referring to the constipation resulting from the previous febrile condition, Dr. Stowell says, "That I soon removed by a gentle aperient, such as manna for children and the compound rhubarb pill for the adult." In conjunction with this treatment, "a warm water wash bath was ordered every morning, to carry off the poisonous refuse from the surface of the body." "To my astonishment," says Dr. Stowell, "most of my patients could, and wished to, be about their ordinary duties the day after treatment." Nor is this the whole of this gentleman's testimony; for, after demonstrating the efficacy of the bitartrate of potash, as already referred to, and prescribing it, in combination with rhubarb, as a preventive, he thus summarises the results:—"I have not had a single death from small-pox alone, and in every family but one not a single case of infection has spread, and that one was when the medicine was not taken as prescribed."

I might multiply quotations, from correspondences received since the publication of my pamphlet, in con-

firmation of this professional testimony that the bitartrate of potash is, save in exceptional cases, a speedy cure for small-pox.

Your right hon. commission will at once perceive the high probability that a medicinal agent so efficacious in two of the class of contagious diseases to which, agreeably to your report, the cattle plague belongs, and especially in the virulent pest designated the type of the group, may prove equally remedial in the cattle plague.

If further proof were needed to sustain this position, it is to be found in the diaphoretic action of the bitartrate of potash—an action identical with that produced by the vapour bath treatment transmitted by her Majesty's ambassador at St. Petersburg, a treatment favourably alluded to in the report of your Right Hon. Commission, and alleged by Dr. Buisson (as lately reported in the *Salut Public* of Lyons) to be efficacious in hydrophobia, and in the elimination of the rattle-snake, tarantula, and vaccine poisons.

I need scarcely recall attention to the fact that in addition to this sudorific and palpably remedial action of the bitartrate of potash, intensified by being administered in the form of whey—it possesses also other curative properties, in being “neutralistic of the poisonous fermentation of the blood”; in “supplying to the vital fluid some of the salts and water of which it is deprived by the disease”; in producing a salutary effect upon the kidneys; while by the combined action of an aperient upon the bowels, the whole excretory system is laid under contribution, the disease-poison is eliminated, and the disorder is conquered.

It is almost superfluous to state that if, agreeably to the opinion of an eminent veterinary authority, the disease now prevalent among the cattle of the country is bovine small-pox, the thickness of the animal's hide preventing the development of the eruption usually incident to this disorder, the probability of the bitartrate of potash proving efficacious in its treatment is increased in a ten-fold degree.

I respectfully suggest that, as the addition of boiling milk to the bitartrate of potash intensifies its diaphoretic power, it should be given in this form; the liquid, or whey (after being strained) to be administered as warm as it can be taken. The largely increased dose required by an ox, or a cow, in comparison with that for a human subject, will at once suggest itself, as will also the probable necessity of a repetition of doses, to keep up the perspiration, and an adaptation of the treatment to the state of the disease, and other modifying circumstances.

The recommendations contained in your report as to temperature, ventilation, cleanliness, and the substitution of warm mashes for dry food, are so appropriate and comprehensive, as to leave but little to be intimated on these points.

I would further suggest that, as in a despatch of one of her Majesty's Consuls, ferruginous water was reported to be efficacious as a preventive of the cattle plague, tartarised iron might be beneficially administered with, or in alternation with, the bitartrate of potash. The tartrate of potash would probably prove remedial as an aperient. The warm-water wash-bath (prescribed by Dr. Stowell in the treatment of small-pox), and the hydropathic mode of wrapping wet and dry blankets around the diseased animal, might be advantageously combined with the treatment suggested. It is no unimportant recommendation of such a treatment that its simplicity, and easy applicability, render it capable of general adoption.

I feel it a duty to suggest, also, that charcoal, internally administered, in due quantity, to the diseased animal might prove remedial. My reasons for making this suggestion are:—1. The great putrefactive changes produced by the cattle plague, and the well-known deodorising properties of charcoal; “tainted meat being rendered sweet, and foul water being purified,” by this substance. 2. The confirmation, by Dr. Tolle's experiments, of the theory that, “preparations which exercise a powerful influence in preventing decomposition out of the body, prevent also similar action in living animals.” 3. The analogy presented by the fact that a class of carbonic remedies exists, of known efficacy in contagious diseases.” 4. The cure of the carbonisation of the blood—a condition present in contagious fevers—by carbon, being in conformity with the system of homoeopathy—a system reported to be a remarkably successful one in the treatment of the cattle plague in Holland. I also respectfully suggest that the medicinal properties of charcoal may be tried, in combination and in alternation with the bitartrate of potash and tartarised iron, and that the prophylactic virtues of these agents may be respectively tested.

Notwithstanding the scepticism expressed by some as to the existence of specifics in medicine, there appear to be valid reasons for believing that for a specific disease produced by specific contagion there exists a specific cure. While it is much to be deplored that, as stated in the report of your right honourable commission, “no such specific for the cattle plague has been discovered,” and that, both from this country and from abroad, the commissioners have received discouraging but decided evidence, that all methods hitherto adopted have been unsuccessful, it is satisfactory to learn that a scheme of investigation into the nature of the disease has been drawn up, and that “different inquiries have been entrusted to scientific men of great skill and ability.”

As inoculation is one of the subjects of inquiry, the question is, perhaps, worth the attention of the gentlemen referred to, whether the experiments of Dr. Tolle do not justify the belief that, possibly, by chemical admixture, the virus of the cattle plague might become so modified as to produce, by inoculation, a mild form of the disease.

It may be worthy of consideration also, whether artificial issues, inserted in uninfected animals, might not—as was said to be the case with human subjects during the plague of two centuries ago—afford an immunity from contagion.

I beg to subscribe myself,
My Lords and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
CHARLES ROSE.

Her Majesty's Commissioners for Enquiring
into the Origin, Nature, and Treatment of
the Cattle Plague.

It is stated that the new special correspondent of the *Times* in the Southern States of America is Mr. Laurence Oliphant, M.P. for the Stirling District.

Foreign and Colonial.

FRANCE.

The French financial report has been published. The deficit for 1864 is 2,000,000*l.*, but M. Fould says there is reason to expect that the Budget for 1865 will close with an equilibrium. The Budget for 1866 is to show a reduction on the preceding year. The Minister proposes a plan by which 1,200,000*l.* will annually be applied to the reduction of the national debt. The floating debt now amounts to 30,880,000*l.*, against 32,320,000*l.* in January last.

Some foolish students lately met together in what was called a conference at Liège, where they talked a good deal of atheism and nonsense. Many of them belong to the University of Paris, and have been sentenced to perpetual exclusion by the Council of the Academy. The Council has also expressed the opinion that the offenders should be excluded from all other French academies. In consequence there has been great commotion and insubordination among the students of the Paris University, and the professors have been interrupted in their labours.

The *Moniteur*, referring to the recent disturbances, says:—“A small minority of students appear resolved to obstruct the lectures. The Government cannot permit the work of the studious pupils to be interrupted by a few turbulent young men. Permission to attend the courses has already been withdrawn from a certain number of these latter, and a similar measure will be adopted with all who may take part in the disturbances.” M. Faurie has been provisionally appointed to superintend the Faculty of Medicine in the place of Dean Tardieu, whose resignation has been accepted.

The *Patrie* says:—“France and England have not offered mediation to Spain in the Chilean question, but their good offices only, which have been accepted by the Spanish Government.”

BELGIUM.

A telegram informs us that the Belgian Ministers tendered their resignations, but were requested by the King to continue in office. This resignation is, of course, a purely formal matter, done in order that the King might choose his own Ministers. He was not likely, we imagine, to change any of them just now. The Chamber of Representatives has unanimously voted a bill fixing the Royal Civil List at 3,300,000*fr.* during the King's reign, and granted an extraordinary credit of 700,000*fr.* for restoring the interior of the Royal residences.

ITALY.

On the 21st the Chamber of Deputies adopted the Provisional Budget for 1866 by 173 against 23 votes, with an amendment reducing the period of its application from three to two months. It also approved the proposal of Signor Mancini for a Parliamentary inquiry into the public administration.

The Minister of the Interior subsequently announced that the Cabinet had tendered their resignation, which had been accepted by the King. General della Marmora also made a similar declaration in the Senate.

General della Marmora has been entrusted with the formation of a new Cabinet. The Parliament has adjourned to Jan. 15.

AUSTRIA.

In the Hungarian Diet on the 20th Herr Carl Szontivanyi was elected President, and Count Julius Andrássy First Vice-President, of the Lower House. Both belong to the Deak party.

In the sitting of the Lower House of the Hungarian Diet, on the 21st, Count Julius Andrássy, the newly-elected First Vice-President, made an inaugural speech, in which he said that the western portion of the empire should be convinced that the rights of Hungary are in unison with the interests of the empire, but that Parliamentary centralisation is opposed to these rights. In conclusion, Count Andrássy said:—

Our aim should not be the triumph of Hungary, but the consolidation of the power of Austria. I trust that Hungary will keep in view the rights of the Crown and the material interests of the empire. (Applause.)

The sitting was then adjourned until the 10th of January.

AMERICA.

The following concurrent resolutions have been introduced in Congress and referred to the Committee for Foreign Affairs:—

Whereas, in pursuance of the policy expressed by Napoleon in his letter to General Forey, dated July 3, 1862, an attempt has been made to establish a monarchy in Mexico contrary to the people's wishes, and to support Maximilian in his usurpation by European soldiers, and Maximilian having practically established slavery and violated the usages of civilised warfare by declaring Republicans outlaws,—

Therefore the Senate contemplates the condition of Mexico with profound solicitude. The attempt to establish a monarchy on the American Continent sustained solely by European bayonets is opposed to the declared policy of the Federal Government, offensive to the people, and contrary to the spirit of their institutions. The President is requested to take such steps concerning this grave matter as will vindicate the recognised policy and protect the honour and interest of the American Government.

Both Houses have requested the President to furnish all correspondence touching the French occupation of Mexico, Maximilian's decree ordering armed Republicans to be shot without trial, and the establishment of Peonage. Another resolution, strongly pointed against Mexico, was introduced in the House and laid over.

The Senate has passed the resolution appointing a committee to decide the claims of the Southern members to seats, with an amendment making the resolution concurrent permitting debate on the subject, and providing for the admission of one or more State delegations without waiting for the cases of all to be decided. The House has consented to receive the credentials of the Tennessee members, and has referred them to the joint committee; pending a decision, the Tennessee members have been granted the privilege of the floor. The other Southern members are excluded.

The House has refused to allow the introduction of a resolution declaring the insurrection to be suppressed, that the paramount duty was to restore the privileges and relations of all the States as quickly as possible, and that the President's reconstruction policy is the best adapted to attain this end.

The House has passed a bill to prevent the cattle disease by the temporary prohibition of the importation of cattle.

The *New York Times* believes that the opposition of the Union members to the admission of the Southern representatives is diminishing.

Governor Orr, in his inaugural address to the Legislature of South Carolina, reviewed the consequences of the late war, pronounced the doctrine of the right of secession annihilated, counselled a faithful and vigorous support of the National Government, advised the encouragement of immigration of skilled artisans and mechanics, and the investment of Northern capital. He predicted a speedy recovery of the State from the ravages of the war, and earnestly recommended the encouragement of education and industry and a spirit of leniency and kindness towards the freedmen.

Provisional Governor Perry, of South Carolina, recently received the following telegram from the President:—

I do not think it necessary for the members elect from South Carolina to be present at the organization of Congress. On the contrary, it will be better policy to present their certificate of election after the two Houses have organized, which will then be a simple question under the constitution of the members taking their seats. Each House must judge for itself the election returns and qualifications of its members. As to what the two Houses will do in reference to the oath required to be taken by members, is unknown to me, and I do not like to predict. But, upon the whole, I am of the opinion it would be better for the question to come up after Congress has been organized.

I hope that your Legislature will adopt a code in reference to free persons of colour that will be acceptable to the country and at the same time do justice to the white and coloured population.

ANDREW JOHNSON, President.

The Charleston correspondent of the *Herald* asserts that General Grant, in the course of conversation at the dinner given by General Sickles, stated that now was the favourable moment to drive Maximilian from Mexico, and that such an opportunity might not occur again.

General Grant has returned to Washington, and reports that the negroes are in comparative idleness and refuse to renew their contracts. He believes that the professions of loyalty expressed by the Southern masses are sincere.

General Logan had had an interview with Mr. Seward on the subject of Mexican affairs. The reports concerning his acceptance of the Mexican mission are still contradictory.

President Johnson has instructed the Provisional Governor of Georgia to continue in his functions until specially relieved, and also not to issue certificates of election to candidates elected to Congress. The Provisional Governor of Georgia has since asked to be relieved, and recommended the installation of the newly-elected Governor.

The Fenian Senate have impeached John O'Mahony and deposed him from office for malfeasance and misappropriation of funds. They have elected W. R. Roberts president, and issued an address urging all Fenians to rally round the new organisation. O'Mahony's supporters act independently of the Senate, and have called Congress to assemble in New York in January. Meetings of the supporters of both parties have been held throughout the country endorsing the respective organisations. The Fenians are making preparations for the reception of Stephens, who is expected in New York. It is believed that he will be accepted as arbiter between O'Mahony and the Senate.

THE OVERLAND MAIL.

HONG KONG, Nov. 15.—Sir Rutherford Alcock has set out for the Taku forts, en route for Peking, and has hitherto met with no opposition. At Shanghai and in this city his Excellency was met by deputations, by whom he was entrusted with several matters to be laid before the Imperial Cabinet. The English consul at Swatow has gone to Chaochow, in order, it is presumed, to open that place to Europeans under the Tientsin treaty. The maritime customs are working well. Some gunboats have attacked a fleet of piratical vessels, destroying ten craft and capturing a lorcha. A registration office for Chinese servants has been opened at Shanghai. Advice from Japan state that the British, French, and Dutch Ministers had started for the residence of the Mikadodo, with the object, it was supposed, of obtaining his consent to the Tycoon's treaties and of opening Osaka and Hiogo to foreign trade. Another of the murderers of Major Baldwin and Lieut. Bird had been captured at Yeddo. He confessed his crime, and was executed. The Mikadodo had refused to open the ports. The foreign Ministers had referred the question to their

respective Governments. The fleets had returned to Yokohama.

MELBOURNE, Nov. 25.—The tariff has been rejected by the Legislative Council, and the Ministers refused the appropriations. Parliament has been prorogued. The Queen has been petitioned to recall the Governor. Advice from New Zealand state that the natives had been successfully attacked in the Opotiki district. Oawa pah had been captured.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

It is said that Stephens, the Fenian "Head Centre," has left his card upon Earl Cowley at Paris.

King Christian of Denmark is said to be suffering from inflammation of the spinal cord.

The Shah of Persia has given a concession for the construction of a railway from Tabriz to Dzulfah, with branches to the Black Sea and Erzeroum.

Belgium is said to have the densest population in Europe—425 souls per square mile, and in East Flanders even 700, while England has only 377.

General Gideon J. Pillow, of Maury county, Tennessee, is building a large school house, and providing teachers for his former slaves. He owned quite a large number—some 200 or 300.

The cotton crop of India has fallen to about half what it was last year, and is stated to be less than it was at any period of the American war. The cause of the decrease is the sudden fall in prices which followed the close of the American contest.

Mr. Colfax, Speaker of the United States Congress, recently visited Brigham Young, and advised him to have another revelation soon, prohibiting polygamy. The Mormon chief replied that he should be glad to have such a revelation, but some of his followers were not so disposed.

CAPTURE OF THREE ENGLISHMEN BY GREEK BRIGANDS.—Three Englishmen, fellow-commoners of Trinity, Lord A. Hervey, the Hon. Mr. Strutt, and Mr. Coore, have just been captured by brigands in Greece. The ransom demanded for their release is 1,000*l.* each. Lord A. Hervey and Mr. Strutt have been set at liberty, Mr. Coore being retained in captivity as security for the payment of the money.—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

OUR RELATIONS WITH BRAZIL.—Mr. Thornton, the British Minister Plenipotentiary, and the Emperor of Brazil have exchanged diplomatic courtesies. The Emperor, in replying to the speech of the Plenipotentiary, said:—"I highly appreciate this proof of friendship on the part of my dear sister, the Queen of Great Britain. I hope you will be the faithful interpreter of these sentiments, and that your mission will contribute to strengthen the bonds which happily unite the two countries."

MORTALITY AMONG THE FREEDMEN.—Official returns received at the Freedmen's Bureau show that of the ten thousand negroes brought down Cape Fear river in March last to Wilmington by General Sherman, two thousand died from the 17th of March to the 31st of May for the want of medical attention, which it was impossible to afford them at the time. Since the establishment of the medical department of the Freedmen's Bureau in North Carolina, the mortality among the freedmen has greatly decreased.—*American Paper.*

THE NORTH AMERICAN INDIANS.—The Indian Bureau of the United States reports that an accurate census of all the Indian tribes in the United States makes the number of Indians 307,800. The Cheyenne and Apache tribes, since the unprovoked massacre of their women and children nearly two years ago, have never overlooked an opportunity to retaliate. It has just been announced that a force of 200 of them attacked an overland mail-coach on November 28, in Colorado, killed seven persons, and then burnt all the mail-stations in the neighbourhood.

A STATUE WEeping BY STEAM.—The Florence correspondent of the *Indépendance Belge* says that a singular discovery has been made in a church in one of the faubourgs of Milan. A statue of St. Magdalen, which has long been famous for weeping in the presence of unbelievers, was recently moved, in order to facilitate repairs for the church. It was found that the statue contained an arrangement for boiling water. The steam passed up into the head, and was there condensed. The water thus made its way by a couple of pipes to the eyes, and trickled down upon the cheeks of the image. So the wonderful miracle was performed.

BRIGANDAGE IN THE PAPAL STATES.—The Earl of Clarendon, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, has received the following information from her Majesty's Consul at Rome, dated November 28, 1865:—"Various bands of brigands have now descended from the Neapolitan territory into the Papal States in such numbers that the small amount of Papal troops (in the absence of the French) is evidently unable to contend successfully with them. These organised bands now extend from Viterbo to Frosinone, so that most of the frontier towns are without protection, and three individuals are prisoners until they can be ransomed."

M. DEAK.—The most popular and influential man in Hungary is extremely simple in his habits, and very abstemious. For many years he has inhabited two plainly-furnished rooms in the hotel in which I am now writing, and I am told that he takes but one meal a day. At dinner his only beverage is water, as he eschews wine, beer, and coffee. M. Deak, whose independence of character and probity are almost proverbial, lives on a small annuity—about 300*l.* a year—which he receives from a near relative, to whom he some years ago ceded his property. He is a middle-sized and portly man. His dress is remarkably simple, and at the solemn opening of the Diet he

wore a black "bakes" (the Hungarian frock-coat). As you will readily conceive, the contrast between the sumptuously apparelled magnates and the simply dressed Deputy was very striking. The most remarkable part of Deak's face is the eye, which is sharp and penetrating. The forehead is full and high, the mouth good and intellectual.—*Times Correspondent.*

THE HUNGARIAN PARLIAMENT.—The Pesth correspondent of the *Daily News* gives an animated picture of the opening of the Hungarian Diet: the women of an almost Oriental type of beauty, with their dark eyes, delicately pencilled eyebrows, and thick tresses of hair, under a small round hat, set with a heron's feather; the men magnificent in black and crimson, with jewels of surpassing value, heavy sable mantles, scimitars encrusted with pearl and turquoise, laced boots with massive golden spurs, and low velvet bonnets with broad fur border, aigrette, and plume. It seems to have been quite an Eastern scene, and the enthusiasm was equally Eastern.

ENGLAND AND ABYSSINIA.—The following letter has been received from Dr. Beke:—"Suez, Dec. 9. —We arrived here yesterday, and are looking for the means of conveyance to Massowah. There is no news from Consul Cameron and his companions in captivity, though there is intelligence from Massowah down to the middle of November. At that date the rebel chief, Daresu Gobazye, occupied the whole country between the capital, Gondar, and the river Takazye. Gobazye, the Wanghum or hereditary prince of the province of Waag, was in Tigre with an army, and a pitched battle between him and Daresu was imminent. The Emperor Theodore was gone to Shoa, in pursuit of Menilek, the Crown Prince of that country, who had escaped from Amba Magdala in the beginning of July last. Since Mr. Rassam's departure from Massowah on October 15th, with forty loaded camels, nothing has been heard of him. His road lay through the frontier districts of Bogos, Berem, Taka, Kedaref, and Kalabat, at the chief place of which last-named district he ought by this time to have arrived. His progress thence to Gondar may probably be impeded by the presence of the troops of Daresu Gobazye. Padre Giovanni Stella, the head of the Roman Catholic Mission at Keren, the capital of Bogos, is reported to have gone to Paris for the purpose of representing to the Emperor Napoleon the deplorable condition of the inhabitants of that country from the aggressions and cruelty of the Egyptian troops in Taka. A Swedish Protestant mission is about to be established in Bogos, two of the members of which have arrived at Cairo. The insurrection in the Egyptian possessions on the Upper Nile is said to be quelled."

GENERAL GRANT'S REPORT ON THE CONDUCT OF THE WAR during the last year, in which he was Commander-in-Chief, is a very remarkable document,—lucid, simple, strong. It is clear from it that General Grant did really, and not in name merely, direct the operations of all the armies, during that final year of battle. For example, when in December, 1864, General Thomas delayed his attack on Hood's army before Nashville beyond the time contemplated in General Grant's instructions, he actually left his own command at Richmond to proceed to Nashville to put things in motion, when he was arrested in Washington by the news of General Thomas's successful attack, and returned, well satisfied, to his own more immediate care. It is clear that every great operation of that year was directly ordered by the Commander-in-Chief over that enormous extent of territory. His report is as generous to his subordinates as it is terse and lucid. He speaks with high praise of many, but with actual censure of none,—though censure is implied in his narrative of their mistakes. Perhaps the severest implied censure is passed on General Butler for his blunders, both at Bermuda Hundred, after his first appearance on the James River, and again at Fort Fisher. He speaks of his position in the former case as "completely shut off from all further operations against Richmond as if he had been in a bottle strongly corked." He awards explicitly equal respect to the fighting qualities of the western and eastern troops, and pays the greatest compliment to the courage and generalship of the enemy, "whose manhood, however mistaken the cause, drew forth such deeds of valour." The simplicity, clearness, and directness of General Grant's style reminds one strongly of that of Cæsar's *Gallie War*.—*Spectator.*

GENERAL NEAL DOW ON THE ALABAMA CLAIMS.—The following is the concluding portion of a letter which Mr. Barker, secretary of the United Kingdom Alliance, has received from General Neal Dow:—"Our friends in England need not fear any national complications or embroilments on our part. We have had enough of war, and are sick of it. We want peace, and mean to have it. We are sure that no nation will care to disturb our repose, needlessly; and we shall carefully abstain from all causes of offence. Our friend upon our southern border must 'clear out' when the time comes, not from any hostility on our part, but because he cannot flourish nor take root under our shadow. We shall do nothing and say nothing offensive to Napoleon; but he will not care to stay for a long time so far away from home. And so all fear of collision with England, on account of the depredations of the Alabama, Florida, Shenandoah, &c., may be laid at rest. The unanimous feeling of this country is, so far as I can gather it, that the matter ought to remain just where Earl Russell has placed it; that his exposition of the law and practice under it be accepted and adopted. In Boston, a memorial to that effect to the Government has been largely and influentially signed. The reasons for this view are two, so far as I can learn: first, our people whose ships have been

destroyed or driven from the ocean by the vessels alluded to expect large and ample indemnity, whenever England shall be at war with any power capable of issuing letters of marque; second, all our people who abhor war always see in it an assurance of peace. England and America will be under bonds to keep the peace in no less a sum than the entire value of their commerce."

LIBERIA.—This African Republic, possessing about 600 miles of coast line, and extending back about 100 miles, has lately benefited by the accession of a large number of emigrants from Barbadoes, all of professions and employments likely to be useful in promoting the welfare of the country. Land of the most fertile character is cheap and abundant, while in Barbadoes it is dear, and rarely changes hands. The citizens of Monrovia intend to aid further emigration from Barbadoes by purchasing a ship, and placing her at the disposal of the Barbadoes Emigration Committee. Each head of a family from the tropics will receive a free grant of twenty-five acres of land suitable for the production of sugar, coffee, arrowroot, cotton, camwood, &c. The Government prefer the tropical coloured people, and therefore only allot five acres to an able-bodied American, and not more than ten acres to an entire family from America. Palm trees grow spontaneously all over the country, so that the production of palm oil is carried on prosperously. Thus Liberia offers great inducements to the coloured race in all countries to emigrate there. A large body of Virginian emigrants from the vicinity of Lynchburg are expected this month. Mr. Gerald Ralston, Consul-General of Liberia for Great Britain, has rendered great services to his Government and the abolitionists of slavery, by negotiating treaties of amity, commerce, and navigation, with England, France, America, Italy, Portugal, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Hayti, &c., in some of which the slave-trade is assimilated to piracy, and the same punishment is provided for the former as the latter. It is hoped that Spain, Brazil, and other maritime Powers will soon give in their adhesion to this most efficacious of all modes of suppressing the slave-trade.

THE MISSIONARIES AND NATIVES IN NEW ZEALAND.—Mr. Fitzgerald, who has resigned the Ministry of Native Affairs in New Zealand, together with the Weld Ministry, writing to Mr. Adderley, M.P., says:—"The present suspicious and sulky attitude of the great bulk of the native race has its origin, partly, at all events, in a multitude of petty grievances arising out of unfulfilled promises. Instead of letting them alone and giving them what they ask for when it is a matter of indifference, we have treated them like children, and acted as if we knew much better what was good for them than they do themselves. Their conclusion has been that in all this manipulation we were looking to our own objects and interests and not to theirs; and I cannot tell them that this is altogether a mistake. One most remarkable instance of this is seen in the hatred to the missionaries—an entirely new feature in Maori sentiment, but one painfully evident. They accuse the missionaries of stealing their land while they pretended to teach them religion, and point to the large estates formerly acquired by the missionaries. Unjust as these charges are, with some exceptions, they are deeply felt. As one chief expressed it, 'While you were teaching us to look up to heaven, you were pulling the land from under our feet.' Again, they look on the missionaries as having deserted them in this, as they view it, unjust and aggressive war, and as having sided with their oppressors. One point in particular is pointed to. Bishop Selwyn accompanied the army through the Waikato, and endured all the misery of a campaign in order to tender his services to the wounded and dying of both sides. But the natives believe that he was actually in command of a part of the army, and was showing General Cameron his way about the country. W. Thomson, in a petition to the Assembly, speaks of 'the army of Bishop Selwyn and the General.' Formerly the missionaries were the link between the two races. Now this link is absolutely dissolved, and in this new-born hatred of the missionaries lies one of the causes of Hauhauiism."

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.

(From the *Morning Star*.)

The following is the report of the Capital Punishment Commission as finally agreed to. We believe it has received the assent of all the commissioners. Several of them have, however, signed a supplementary paragraph stating their belief that capital punishments might now be safely abolished.

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

We, your Majesty's commissioners appointed "to inquire into the provisions and operation of the laws now in force in the United Kingdom, under and by virtue of which the punishment of death may be inflicted upon persons convicted of certain crimes, and also into the manner in which capital sentences are carried into execution, and to certify to your Majesty under our hands and seals, or under the hands and seals of any five or more of us, our several proceedings in the premises, and at the same time to report to your Majesty our opinion whether any and what alteration is desirable in such laws or any of them, or in the manner in which such sentences are carried into execution," humbly report as follows:—

1. We have been occupied a considerable time in taking evidence upon the questions referred to us. Many witnesses have been examined, and a careful summary of their evidence precedes this report. In addition to this oral testimony, certain questions have been addressed to, and answers received from, nearly all the nations of Europe, and some of the States

of the United States of America, with regard to the laws relating to the punishment of death existing in those countries respectively.

The opinions of all her Majesty's judges in England, Ireland, and Scotland, as well as of other eminent criminal lawyers, have been requested upon the expediency of making any alteration in the laws under which the punishment of death may now be inflicted upon persons convicted of certain crimes.

In answer to this request some of the judges have sent in statements of their views, while others have attended before the commission and verbally stated their opinions. The whole of the evidence, both oral and documentary, will be found in the appendix.

2. The commissioners forbear to enter into the abstract question of the expediency of abolishing or maintaining capital punishment, on which subject differences of opinion exist among them, but they are all of opinion that certain alterations ought to be made in the existing law.

3. The only crimes now practically punishable with death in the United Kingdom are treason and murder; we say *practically*, because in Scotland there remain many other offences which are still in point of law liable to be so punished, though in fact such a case never occurs. We strongly recommend that this anomaly be no longer allowed to exist, and that all such obsolete laws be repealed.

A list of these offences will be found in the Appendix, "p."

4. We have then, first, to consider whether, assuming capital punishment to be retained, we should recommend any change in its present application to the crime of treason, and upon this point we have come to the conclusion that no alteration is required. The statute of the 11 & 12 Vict. c. 12, commonly called the "Treason Felony Act," without in any way abrogating the ancient law upon that subject, has introduced a new and more merciful law, which, in all but cases of extreme gravity, will probably supersede the former. The maximum punishment under this Act is penal servitude for life, which seems sufficiently severe in cases of constructive treason unaccompanied by overt acts of rebellion, assassination, or other violence. With respect to treason of the latter character, we are of opinion that the extreme penalty must remain.

5. We now arrive at the consideration of the crime of murder and its punishment, and in treating this difficult question we think it convenient briefly to refer in the first instance to the existing state of the law.

6. By the law, murder is the unlawfully killing another with malice aforethought, and this definition appears to us to be correct in principle.

Unfortunately these words have not been confined to express malice aforethought, or as it is sometimes called malice in fact, but have received a less natural construction, which has long been adopted as the settled law of the land. It has been held that malice in its legal sense imports nothing more than a wicked intention to do injury to the person of another without any just cause or excuse, and that where a man is killed in consequence of any such wicked intention the law will infer malice aforethought, though no express enmity or pre-conceived design can be shown; not indeed a particular but a general malice aforethought, arising from the extreme depravity of disposition shown by the act. This doctrine of implied malice aforethought goes even beyond this, and is carried to such an extent that the law always infers it when a person in the act of committing a felony, even of a trifling nature, kills another, though there may be in fact no premeditation, and no intention to kill, or do serious injury.

When homicide is committed in the perpetration of crimes of great enormity, such as those enumerated in clause 12, this inference may not be improperly drawn.

7. The extreme severity of this construction has been somewhat mitigated by the law of manslaughter, which is defined to be the unlawful killing of another without malice express or implied. In order to reduce the crime from murder to manslaughter, the law allows evidence of provocation to be given to rebut the inference of malice, which would otherwise be drawn from the act of killing. Here, however, again certain arbitrary rules have been introduced into the law, which most materially restrict its beneficial operation. It has been established by the decisions of our courts that no provocation by words, looks, or gestures, however contemptuous and insulting, nor by any trespass merely against lands or goods, is sufficient to free the party killing from the guilt of murder, if he kills with a deadly weapon, or in any manner showing an intention to kill, or do grievous bodily harm. In these cases, though the suddenness of the provocation may rebut in point of fact the express malice aforethought, it is not allowed, on account of its supposed insignificance, to overcome the general malice aforethought, which is implied by the law from the wickedness and cruelty of the deed. Without entering into the many nice and subtle distinctions which prevail upon this subject, it is enough to say that the practical result of this state of things is most unsatisfactory. A man who, in a sudden fit of passion, aroused by insults to himself or his wife, kills the person who offers the insult, is, by law, guilty of the same crime and liable to the same punishment as the assassin who has long meditated and brooded over his crime. A great majority of the witnesses whom we have examined have expressed a strong opinion that this branch of our criminal law requires revision and amendment, at least so far as the punishment is concerned, and we have unanimously arrived at the same conclusion.

8. We proceed, therefore, to offer such recommendations as we think expedient for altering the present law of murder. It appears to us that there are two modes in which the change may be effected.

9. The first plan is to abrogate altogether the existing law of murder, and to substitute a new definition of that crime; confining it to felonious homicides of great enormity, and leaving all those which are of a less heinous description in the category of manslaughter.

10. The other plan is one which has been extensively acted upon in the United States of America, where the common law of England is in force; this leaves the definition of murder and the distinction between that crime and manslaughter untouched, but divides the crime of murder into two classes or degrees, solely with the view of confining the punishment of death to the first or higher degree.

11. We have given both these plans our serious consideration, and we are of opinion that the required

change may be best effected by the latter, which involves no disturbance of the present distinction between murder and manslaughter, which does not make it necessary to remodel the statutes relating to attempts to murder, and does not interfere with the operation of those treaties with foreign Powers which provide for the extradition of fugitives accused of that crime. The object proposed can be attained by a short and simple enactment, providing that no murder shall be punished with death except such as are particularly therein mentioned.

These should be called murders of the first degree; all other murders should be called murders of the second degree, and punished as hereinafter recommended.

12. We recommend, therefore—

(1.) That the punishment of death be retained for all murders deliberately committed with express malice aforethought, such malice to be found as a fact by the jury.

(2.) That the punishment of death be also retained for all murders committed in, or with a view to, the perpetration, or escape after the perpetration, or attempt at perpetration, of any of the following felonies:—Murder, arson, rape, burglary, robbery, or piracy.

(3.) That in all other cases of murder the punishment be penal servitude for life, or for any period not less than seven years, at the discretion of the court.

13. Our attention has been called to the frequent failures of justice in cases of infanticide.

The crime of infanticide, as distinguished from murder in general, is not known to the English law. The moment a child is born alive, it is as much under the protection of the law as an adult.

14. We have considered whether the failure of justice, which undoubtedly often occurs in such cases, may not be obviated by some change in the law which shall add to the protection of new-born children. The principal obstacle which now prevents the due enforcement of the law in the extreme difficulty of giving positive proof that the child alleged to have been murdered was completely born alive.

15. We have given this important and difficult subject our serious attention, and we have arrived at the opinion that an Act should be passed making it an offence punishable with penal servitude or imprisonment at the discretion of the court, unlawfully and maliciously to inflict grievous bodily harm or serious injury upon a child during its birth, or within seven days afterwards, in case such child has subsequently died. No proof that the child was completely born alive should be required. With respect to the offence of concealment of birth, we think that no person should be liable to be convicted of such offence upon an indictment for murder, but should be tried upon a separate indictment. The accused should not be entitled to be acquitted in either of the above cases if it should be proved on the trial that the offence amounted to murder or manslaughter.

16. There is one point upon which the witnesses whom we have examined are almost unanimous—viz., that the power of directing sentence of death to be recorded should be restored to the judges. We think this change desirable.

17. Upon another important point there is also a great preponderance of opinion against the present state of the law. The witnesses whom we have examined are, with very few exceptions, in favour of the abolition of the present system of public executions, and it seems impossible to resist such a weight of authority. We therefore recommend that an Act be passed putting an end to public executions, and directing that sentence of death shall be carried out within the precincts of the prison, under such regulations as may be considered necessary to prevent abuse, and satisfy the public that the law has been complied with.

18. There are other questions of great importance upon which we have taken evidence, viz.:—

(1.) The propriety of allowing an appeal on matters of fact to a court of law in criminal cases.

(2.) The mode in which the Crown is advised to exercise the prerogative of mercy by the Home Secretary.

(3.) The present state of the law as to the nature and degree of insanity which is held to relieve the accused from penal responsibility in criminal cases.

It is obvious that these difficult questions are not confined to capital crimes only, but pervade the whole administration of the criminal law. They therefore require a more general and comprehensive treatment than the terms of the commission under which we act will admit. We think, therefore, that while we should not be justified in making any recommendation to your Majesty on any of these points, we should fail in our duty did we not humbly solicit your Majesty's attention to them as requiring further investigation.

All which we humbly submit to your Majesty's royal consideration.

THE JAMAICA QUESTION.

MEMORIAL FROM NONCONFORMIST MINISTERS.

The Secretary of the Body of Protestant Dissenting Ministers of the three denominations presents his compliments to the editor of the *Nonconformist*, and forwards a copy of a memorial to Earl Russell from that body on the subject of the recent proceedings in Jamaica, which his lordship has this day received.

Dec. 20.

[Copy.]

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE EARL RUSSELL, FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY.

The memorial of the Protestant Dissenting ministers of the three denominations residing in and about the cities of London and Westminster, adopted at a public meeting of the body, held at the Congregational Library, December 18th, 1865, the Rev. Francis Tucker, B.A., in the chair.

May it please your lordship,—

In common with the rest of our countrymen, we have been deeply and painfully affected with the intelligence which has recently reached this country from Jamaica. We deplore, and utterly condemn, the acts of sanguinary violence said to have been committed by the coloured people at Morant Bay. But if the accounts that have appeared in the public journals may be trusted (and some of them are in the form of official reports from Governor Eyre and those acting under him), it is impossible for us not to feel that there have been excessive and unlawful

severities used by the authorities of the island in the suppression and punishment of the outbreak. We have learnt, therefore, with the utmost satisfaction that her Majesty's Government has so promptly adopted measures well calculated to allay the feelings of anxiety and alarm which these events had naturally excited in the public mind by the appointment of a commission of inquiry into all the circumstances connected with the late disturbances and the means taken for their suppression, and by the suspension of Governor Eyre from his authority in the island pending the investigation.

We will not permit ourselves to doubt that the commission will be so constituted and so conducted as to ensure a full, searching, and impartial investigation, such as will satisfy the requirements of justice and humanity, and the feeling of the people of this country.

But there is one other point connected with recent proceedings in Jamaica to which we would venture respectfully to ask your lordship's attention. It appears that a bill has been introduced into the Legislative Assembly, entitled "A bill to regulate places of public worship," under the provisions of which all Dissenters in the island are required at great expense of stamp duties and registration fees, and under heavy penalties of fine and imprisonment, to submit to the island secretary the claims to have registered their places for worship and schoolrooms of every description, both for day and Sunday-schools, while the Churches of England, Scotland, and Rome are expressly exempted from its operation. We cannot but express our deep surprise that in any colony of Great Britain a measure should have been even contemplated for an instant, which thus branded with the stigma of injurious suspicion one portion of her Majesty's subjects who have proved themselves, we venture to say, at home and abroad, as loyal to the throne and constitution of this country as any class of the community. And though this particular measure has been withdrawn, there is reason to believe that another of somewhat similar tenour, though less severe in its enactments and more limited in its operation, will be brought forward by the Government. We have every confidence in appealing to your lordship as the long-tried friend of religious liberty to instruct her Majesty's representative in Jamaica to disallow that, or any other measure that may be proposed, tending to trench upon the freedom of worship and teaching hitherto enjoyed, and to draw invidious distinctions between different classes of her Majesty's subjects on the ground of their religious faith.

Signed on behalf of the meeting,

FRANCIS TUCKER, Chairman.
WILLIAM BROOK, Secretary.

THE REV. A. BOURNE ON THE RECENT OUTBREAK.

On Thursday night a lecture was delivered upon the subject of the Jamaica massacres at the Claylands Chapel, Clapham-road, by the Rev. A. Bourne, who has just returned from Manchester, which is situated in the heart of the disturbed districts, where he was during the recent outbreak.

The proceedings commenced with a religious service, after which

The Rev. BALDWIN BROWN, who occupied the chair, introduced the lecturer, observing that nothing touched the honour of England more than the recent proceedings in Jamaica, and it was very important to have the testimony of an eye-witness with reference to what had actually taken place.

The Rev. A. BOURNE then came forward and stated that there were many points in reference to the late proceedings in Jamaica upon which further information was required. He claimed to be an independent witness, not belonging to any party, or in any way connected with the missionaries. He should abstain from entering into any details of the butchery which had taken place. His blood alternately boiled with indignation and ran cold with horror and disgust at what he witnessed. He considered "our black brother" not a very respectable relation, for he was afraid of his brutal ferocity, but he blushed deeply when he reflected on the acts of the white men. The soldiers who had been hired to destroy were in many cases grown hopelessly callous and insensitive to the common feelings of humanity. The residents had been smarting for some time under severe losses, accompanied too often by robbery and bloodshed. What had been done by the soldiery was done in cold blood, but he quite acknowledged the energy of the Governor in assisting those suffering from distress, and in repressing crime. Captain Hole had expressed himself sick of the odious work of slaughter to which he was condemned. The lecturer himself, while he owed his danger to the wickedness of infuriated monsters of the negro race, owed also his life to black men and women. He considered that demonstration, revenge, and plunder were the three immediate causes of the outbreak, and the demonstration, which finally grew into resistance to lawful authority, undoubtedly arose out of the disputes between Mr. Gordon and the authorities of St. Thomas-in-the-East. Those disputes commenced as early as 1862, when Mr. Gordon came as the friend of the people, and was defeated in his candidature for the representation of St. Thomas. After his defeat, Mr. Gordon brought a charge against the rector, whose name was Cooke, of perpetrating certain abuses, and accused him of misappropriating the funds of the poor. He then described at considerable length the progress of the dispute, which eventually led to the dismissal of Gordon from the magistracy by the Governor, his exclusion from the vestry by a judgment of Justice Cargill, and his subsequent forcible expulsion by the custos, Mr. Baron Kettelholdt. In the progress of these disputes, Gordon frequently appealed to the people to support him as their advocate, but in every instance in a perfectly constitutional manner; and it was in reference to one of these appeals that the well-known address, which had been foolishly called Gordon's proclamation, had been made. The lecturer read copious extracts from the remarks made by Mr. Gordon at vestry-meetings, and before the custos, as well as in the colonial papers, in which he charged the

custos with exercising a baneful influence, spoke of the rector as jesuitical, and referred to the judgment of Justice Cargill in no measured terms. He mentioned that all the dispute with the rector originated in the question whether Gordon, who had been originally baptized and confirmed in the communion of the Church of England, had not forsaken that communion, and rendered himself ineligible to serve as churchwarden, in consequence of his subsequently receiving adult baptism. He stated, however, that no complaint or writing of Mr. Gordon had reference to any date subsequent to the 29th of July, for which the custos had summoned a meeting, and it was in respect to that meeting alone that he had made an appeal to the people to come forward in defence of their rights. He then proceeded to touch upon the land tenure question, and the disputes arising out of it on the Middleton estate. There could be no doubt that certain of the negroes, among whom was Paul Bogle, believed they had a title to squat on that estate, derived from a permission accorded in slave times by owners of the estates to some of the slaves to erect cottages or huts there and reside in them. There could be no doubt whatever that Paul Bogle and his co-rioters came to the court-house at Morant with the avowed determination to resist force by force, and that they were undoubtedly rioters in the worst sense of the word. At the same time he remarked that the contest was altogether unequal from the first, and that all the atrocities committed by the blacks were done in the heat of the moment, while, on the other hand, the massacres and floggings were in cold blood. He quite admitted that the military measures of Governor Eyre and General Nelson were admirably taken, and if there was any intention on the part of the blacks to rise throughout the island, the manner in which the disturbed district was hemmed in by the military must have prevented the insurrection from spreading to other districts—and it was well known that nothing had a greater tendency to spread than an insurrection when the people were discontented and distressed. They, therefore, could not, without ascertaining in the first place whether a rising was in contemplation or not, determine whether Governor Eyre was justified in his measures or not; for he quite admitted that if it could be proved that such a rising was about to take place, the Governor had rendered the greatest service. That was an open question for the commission to investigate. The other two features of the outbreak on the part of the negroes were revenge and robbery, which were only very partially indulged in. At the same time he said that the intentions of the rioters were not to be measured by the actual number of the whites killed, because most of them escaped through the connivance of black friends, which tended to show that the spirit of hostility to them was far from general among the negroes. It had been said that the watchword chosen was "colour for colour," and there was certainly evidence to show that Paul Bogle was endeavouring to form an organisation, but there was an entire absence of evidence to show that such an organisation was general, or that it was in fact any more than a local agitation. He, however, left the question of the existence of the conspiracy and the employment of the Maroons in the hands of the commission, and he concluded by observing that the interposition of the Home Government was calculated to do much good, because in all probability it would lead to a full investigation of the condition of the people, and the difficulties under which the blacks undoubtedly laboured in the disposal of their produce. His opinion was that it was imperative on the Government to pass just laws, to give equal advantages to the negroes, and to promote their moral and intellectual advancement by an organised system of education and moral training; while at the same time planters as well as negroes must learn that, whatever distress they suffered, the Government could not relieve them; but they must seek in a change of occupation or employment a means of living, instead of endeavouring to obtain it through the operation of unequal laws. He trusted that the result of the inquiry would be the remodelling of the government of Jamaica and the amelioration of the condition of the negroes.

The lecture was listened to with great attention, and at its close the lecturer was loudly applauded.

On the motion of Major-General GOODWIN, a cordial vote of thanks was given to the lecturer.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A meeting, convened by requisition, and attended by some 1,500 persons, was held on Tuesday evening at the Guildhall, Cambridge. In the absence of the Mayor, the chair was taken by Mr. G. E. Foster. Letters were read from Professor Grote and Dr. Whewell, expressive of their sympathy with the object of the meeting, which was in favour of full inquiry into the outbreak in Jamaica and its suppression. The proceedings were of a most disorderly character, and it was with difficulty some of the speakers could obtain a hearing. A resolution was moved, thanking the Government for the promised inquiry, and especially for the suspension of Governor Eyre during its progress; but to this an amendment was moved and declared to be carried—"That it would be unjust to Governor Eyre to pass any opinion upon his conduct pending such inquiry."

On Wednesday, at a public meeting which was held at the Metropolitan Tabernacle, the Rev. C. H. Spurgeon delivered an address upon the life of William Knibb, the Baptist missionary in Jamaica; after which Dr. Underhill, who was present, referred to the recent outbreak. Without wishing to prejudice the question, he detailed several matters which he alleged oppressively affected the negro population.

He characterised the House of Assembly as the most venal and corrupt assembly calling itself a Parliament in the world. It was to be hoped that the commission which had been sent out would act in an impartial manner, and, at all events, her Majesty's Government deserved credit, and the Premier had acted in a way which became the honoured name of Russell.

An influential deputation, representing the Jamaica Committee, waited upon Mr. Cardwell on Thursday. The deputation included Mr. Charles Buxton, M.P. (the chairman of the committee), Lord Alfred Spencer Churchill, Sir T. Fowell Buxton, M.P., Mr. T. Hughes, M.P., Mr. P. A. Taylor, M.P. (the treasurer), Mr. J. M. Ludlow, and Mr. William Shaen. One object of the committee was to obtain for their legal representatives a *locus standi* before the commission of inquiry. Another was to impress upon the Government the importance of appointing commissioners who would have the absolute confidence of the country. Mr. Cardwell intimated to the deputation that "excellent" men, whose names would be generally accepted as a guarantee of good faith, would be selected to fill these most responsible posts. The Jamaica Committee have arranged to despatch another experienced barrister to co-operate with Mr. Gorrie in the arduous duty of collecting evidence.

On behalf of the Baptist Missionary cause and himself, Dr. Underhill has written to Jamaica to engage the services of Mr. George Philippo, a barrister well acquainted with English and Jamaica law, and of Mr. Harvey, a solicitor. As Governor Eyre accused Dr. Underhill personally of various offences, it is supposed the rev. gentleman will be entitled to a *locus standi* before the Commissioners, and thus be able to secure a fair hearing for the missionaries' side of the case.—*Leicester Mercury*.

Mr. Russell Gurney, M.P. for Southampton and Recorder of London, has been appointed a member of the commission of inquiry in Jamaica.

A memorial rather different in character from the majority of those which the Government has received, has just been sent to Mr. Cardwell by seven Church of England ministers, six magistrates, and 260 inhabitants of Huddersfield. This document expresses regret at the sanguinary revolt, expresses an opinion that it was "the premature explosion of a deeply-laid and widely-spread conspiracy," rejoices that the outbreak has been suppressed, regrets that the local authorities have been charged with undue severity, and after remarking upon the necessity of a searching investigation, concludes:—

Until such investigation has been made we would most earnestly deprecate, as unjust and premature, any condemnation of Governor Eyre and the other local authorities by whose efforts the revolt has been suppressed.

On Monday, the 18th inst., a public meeting on the Jamaica question was held at Southampton. Although the requisitionists condemned the severity of Governor Eyre's proceedings, and thanked the Government for having promised to institute a searching inquiry into the late events, the Mayor permitted the Gaol Chaplain to move as a substantive resolution that which should, properly speaking, have been an amendment. After a somewhat disconnected speech from the reverend gentleman, Mr. T. Falvey moved an amendment reprobating the acts of the authorities in Jamaica, and thanking Lord Russell for the measures he had adopted. After a stormy discussion, which was wound up by the Gaol Chaplain warning the audience against being led "at the chariot wheel of Dissenting corruption," the amendment was carried.

The next mail packet from Jamaica will be the *Seine*. She is expected to arrive on Friday next. She will bring news from Jamaica up to the 8th inst.

PARLIAMENTARY AND GOVERNMENT RETURNS ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE FRANCHISE.

(From the *Leeds Mercury*.)

In looking at the returns now being made of the number of male occupiers in represented boroughs, it is necessary (in order to avoid serious mistakes) always to bear in mind that there are two different returns, made on different principles. One is made by order of the House of Commons, and the other by order of the Government. Those made in the autumn, but not yet quite completed or published, were made in answer to a resolution of the House of Commons, on the motion of Mr. Baines, passed on the 1st of March, 1865; and these give the number of male occupiers holding premises at certain rentals; whereas those very recently asked for by Government are at certain rateable values. Now the rental is generally about one-fifth higher than the rateable value; for example, a house of which the rent paid to the landlord is 6*l.* a-year would be rated in the parochial assessment at only 5*l.* a-year—the difference being allowed to cover the expense of repairs, insurance, and other charges falling upon the landlord.

1. The Parliamentary return (Mr. Baines's) asked for the number of male occupiers in represented boroughs assessed at the "gross estimated rental" (the technical term for the actual rent paid by the tenant to the landlord) following, viz.:—Under 4*l.*, of 4*l.* and under 5*l.*, of 5*l.* and under 6*l.*, of 6*l.* and under 7*l.*, of 7*l.* and under 8*l.*, of 8*l.* and under 9*l.*, of 9*l.* and under 10*l.*, and of 10*l.* and over. Those entitled to be placed on the register as Parliamentary voters by the Reform Act of 1832 are only the last-mentioned, namely, those of 10*l.* rental and over; and of these about twenty-seven per cent. (on the average of all the Parliamentary boroughs) fail to get upon the

register, owing to insufficient length of residence, neglect to support votes before the Revising Barrister, or other cause.

2. The Government returns called for on the 30th November, 1865, ask for the number of male occupiers in represented boroughs assessed at the following "rateable values" (that is, the value on which the parochial rates are assessed), viz., at 4*l.* and under 5*l.*, at 5*l.* and under 6*l.*, at 6*l.*, above 6*l.* and under 7*l.*, at 7*l.* and under 8*l.*, at 8*l.* and under 9*l.*, at 9*l.* and under 10*l.*, and at 10*l.* and over.

The difference between the two sets of returns may be illustrated by the cases of Leeds and Manchester:—

	In Leeds.	In Manchester.
Male occupiers at 10 <i>l.</i> "gross estimated rental" and over	9,337	27,738
Male occupiers at 10 <i>l.</i> "rateable value" and over	5,269	20,047
Voters on the Register of 1865-6	7,818	22,792

It will be seen that in Leeds the 10*l.* rental gives 9,337 male occupiers, whilst the 10*l.* rateable value gives only 5,269. All the 9,337 occupiers at 10*l.* rental are *prima facie* entitled by law to be put upon the register; but in point of fact only 7,818 get placed there. In Manchester the 10*l.* rental gives 27,738 male occupiers, the 10*l.* rateable value only 20,047, whilst the number actually placed on the register as voters is 22,792.

The returns showing the rental will indicate the real value of the premises occupied more exactly than the returns showing the rateable value; because the deduction made from the rental, for the purpose of local assessment, is different in different places. According to a recent act, the valuation of property must be made on one and the same principle in all the parishes included within a Poor-law Union; but the law does not require that the valuation must be made on the same principle in the several Unions of the country; and in point of fact greater deductions are made from the "gross estimated rental," in order to fix the "rateable value," in some parts of the country than in others.

We may add that another Government return, asked for at the same time, applies to counties, and requires the number of male occupiers in counties (omitting those within Parliamentary boroughs) assessed at the "rateable values" following, viz.:—10*l.* and under 12*l.*, 12*l.* and under 15*l.*, 15*l.* and under 20*l.*, 20*l.* and under 50*l.*

The Government returns also ask for the number of working-class voters on the Parliamentary Register for 1865-6, including "every elector who comes within the description of mechanic, artisan, or other person supporting himself by daily manual labour." This will be new and valuable information; but of course in the old boroughs, where there are "freemen," &c., there will be a much larger proportion of working-class voters than in the new boroughs, where only occupiers paying a rent of 10*l.* and upwards can vote. In those of the old boroughs where the franchise was extensive, its extension to any point below 10*l.* would not materially increase the number of voters, because many of the humbler occupiers are already on the register as "freemen," &c.

The Parliamentary return above referred to will be laid before the House of Commons at its meeting; and it is probable the Government returns will also, by command of her Majesty, be laid before the two Houses at the same time or within a day or two after. The tables published in different localities in the mean time of course apply only to particular boroughs; but in looking at them it is desirable to bear in mind the facts mentioned above.

THE PRIMITIVE METHODISTS IN LONDON.

The Primitive Methodists, who have been a missionary body from their commencement, believing they were called upon to go to the most needy and outcast of the population, sent two missionaries to London in 1822 to assist in the work of evangelisation in a part of the metropolis which they considered to be a promising field for labour. They succeeded in establishing a flourishing mission cause. Many were brought to the knowledge of the truth. Societies were formed, congregations gathered, chapels and schools erected, Sunday-schools established, and various Christian and benevolent institutions organised. The first fruits of these zealous and well-directed evangelistic efforts have either been gathered home to heaven, or gone to other spheres of Christian labour and usefulness in various parts of the kingdom and abroad, or are remaining as Christian labourers to aid in leavening the masses of London with Christian truth. What was designated the "London Mission" twenty years ago, is now formed into 10 independent stations, employing 14 regular ministers and 200 local preachers, having 2,993 members in society. They have built or bought 21 congregational chapels and schools, at a cost of about 20,000*l.*, towards which about 10,000*l.* has been raised. They rent upwards of 20 chapels, halls, or rooms in addition, for which they pay 200*l.* and upwards annually, besides incidental expenses. During the 14 years they have increased their worshipping accommodation 173 per cent., which has greatly contributed to improve their position, influence, and power for good among the population. For a considerable time a few earnest and zealous persons amongst them have seen and felt the necessity of doing something more to extend and enlarge their operations amongst the hundreds of thousands of this city, and to do more as their share of labour along with

other sections of the Christian church. The London District Meeting and Conference of 1864 having sanctioned the formation of a Primitive Methodist Metropolitan Chapel Building Fund, the committee decided to hold a public meeting in each circuit, and to raise at least 5,000*l.* towards the project during the next five years. The first meeting to inaugurate this movement was held in London Fields Chapel, Hackney, December 12, and was presided over by J. Powell, Esq., who made an interesting and appropriate speech, in which he expressed his gratification in meeting the friends on such an occasion, and in furtherance of an object to erect chapels in eligible situations, a work which was urgently called for at the present day; and the Rev. T. Penrose, superintendent of the London First Circuit, read the report, in which he gave some details of the progress of the Primitive Methodist cause in London, and urged the importance of additional and vigorous efforts to extend their means of dealing with the religious destitution around them, and their solemn obligation to render personal service in promoting the evangelization of the people. He was followed by the Revs. J. H. Pring, A. McAulay, and W. Antliff, who enforced the same views in speeches which greatly interested the meeting. A liberal collection was made. The chairman offered to double the subscriptions given by the congregation at that meeting, after which slips of paper were handed round, and a number of promises of help were given, amongst which are the following:—Mr. J. W. Johnson, 25*l.*; Mr. J. Archer, 25*l.*; Mr. J. Kemp, 25*l.*; Rev. A. McAulay, 10*l.* 10*s.*; Rev. T. Penrose, 5*l.* 5*s.*; Rev. J. H. Pring, 5*l.* 5*s.*; Miss Tweedy, 5*l.*; Mrs. Bulmer, 5*l.*; Mr. Wrigley, 5*l.*; Mr. H. Potter, 5*l.*; Mr. Martin, 5*l.*; A Friend, 5*l.*; ditto, 5*l.*; and several other smaller amounts, which, together with 10*l.* previously promised by J. Harenan, Esq., and the profits of tea, made the total sum, including the chairman's noble offer, 313*l.* 16*s.* This result was warmly cheered by the congregation. The meeting was closed by prayer by the Rev. A. McAulay, who earnestly supplicated the Divine blessing upon the undertaking. Subscriptions will be thankfully received from any friends who may desire to assist the Primitive Methodists in their Christian work in the metropolis, by the Rev. Thomas Penrose, of 42, Powhall-road, Dalston.

THE SLAVERY QUESTION IN AMERICA.

Official information has been received at the Department of State of the adoption of the amendment to the Constitution by the Legislatures of the States of Illinois, Rhode Island, Michigan, Massachusetts, Ohio, Missouri, Maine, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Nevada, Minnesota, Kansas, New York, Connecticut, West Virginia, New Hampshire, Maryland, Vermont, Louisiana, Arkansas, Tennessee, South Carolina, and Virginia. These make twenty-three States.

Telegraphic information has been received of the adoption of the amendment by the three States of North Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama. No information of any kind has been received of its adoption or rejection by Indiana, Iowa, California, Oregon, Florida, or Texas. Official intelligence of its rejection by the Legislatures of Kentucky, Delaware, and New Jersey has also been received. Immediately after the passing of the resolutions by Congress an attested copy of the amendment was forwarded by the Secretary of State to the Governor of each State; and some time ago the Secretary also sent a circular to the Governors, reminding them of the duty imposed upon him by the Act of Congress of the 20th of April, 1818, to give public notice when the amendment shall have been ratified by the requisite number of States.

The Legislature of Mississippi has reported against the constitutional amendment on account of the second clause, which reads,—"Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation." Such a division of the amendment is, it alleges, a legal impossibility, and the action of the Legislature is tantamount to a rejection. It, however, accords with the recommendation of Governor Humphreys transmitted to the Legislature on the 20th ult., in which he says:—

I respectfully recommend that section 1 of article 13 be adopted, if for no other reason, to put it beyond the power of Mississippi to establish slavery or involuntary servitude except as a punishment for crime, and that the second section be rejected, as its adoption will open the door to that wide range of construction that would centralise in the Federal Government all the powers of Government intended by the framers of the Constitution to be "reserved to the people."

The organisation of the Georgia Legislature, together with the ratification by that body of the constitutional amendment abolishing slavery, has been noticed. Governor Johnson strongly urged its passage, contravening, however, the opinion that it conferred, by implication, on Congress the power of regulating, generally, the internal policy of the State. Such a construction, says the Governor, is believed to be erroneous and unfounded and unwarranted, either by the language employed or the objects sought to be attained.

Governor Hamilton, of Texas, has, by proclamation, authorised the chief justices of the counties to raise, at the county expense, a special police force of fifty men, to aid in suppressing lawless acts. The Governor has also published an excellent address to the freedmen, which counsels them to enter at once into contracts for labour; urges them to order, peace, and industry; promises them the support of the Government to preserve their freedom; and also promises to visit on them the power and punishments

of the law if they continue idle, or commit crime, or become disorderly. He tells them the Government has no lands in Texas to give them, even if it intended to make donations, which it does not; they must work, be honest, industrious, and moral, and obey the laws, or else the laws will surely reach them. He dispels the falsehoods told them, that they were to have a grand distribution of white people's property made to them at Christmas. He sends this address to all the chief justices of counties, and asks them, in conjunction with good citizens who wish to assist, to call the freedmen together and read the address to them.

The question of the ratification of the Constitutional Amendment abolishing slavery was brought up before the Kentucky Legislature, but the resolution was laid over under the rules. At its previous session of last winter the Legislature of that State voted against the ratification, by a vote of 77 to 40. At that time Governor Bramlette strongly urged the opposite course.

A Kentucky judge has decided in the case of the State against Major-General John M. Palmer, for aiding slaves to escape, that slavery is abolished, and the General has issued his proclamation to that effect. He declared before the Court that he acted under the orders of his superiors. The Kentucky Legislature endorses President Johnson's reconstruction policy, favours a general amnesty, and recommends the pardon of Jefferson Davis.

The coloured citizens of Alabama held a State Convention at Mobile lately, and adopted, among others, the following resolutions:—"Resolved,—That we shall labour to foster in the hearts of our people sentiments of peace, friendship, and goodwill toward all men—especially toward our white fellow-citizens among whom our lot is cast; and while we would relinquish none of the rights of our common manhood, we will studiously, according to our best knowledge and ability, so conduct ourselves as to be profitable to them and to ourselves." "Resolved,—That we know and admit the fact that labour, faithfully and judiciously performed, is the only foundation of wealth, and that it will continue to be our purpose and effort to work industriously and honestly for the support of our families and the prosperity of the community in which we live." "Resolved,—That we feel that our new condition of freedom not only presents new motives to industry but also imposes new obligations upon us to cultivate all the virtues of good citizenship, and that therefore it is our purpose to fulfil all the duties of our new positions according to the ability which God has given us." "Resolved,—That we feel in our hearts the glow of gratitude and the purpose of unfaltering fidelity to the Government of the United States, and shall ever regard as pledged to its support our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honour." "Resolved,—That we regard the education of our children and youth as vital to the preservation of our liberties, and true religion as the foundation of all real virtue, and shall use our utmost endeavours to promote these blessings in our common country." Bearing in mind that all oppression and ill-will have been manifested heretofore by the whites and not the blacks; that the blacks and not the whites have contributed nearly all the labour which has been the foundation of the wealth of Alabama; that the blacks without exception have been loyal and the whites disloyal to the Union, and that the education of black children has been forbidden by law, we challenge the production of a declaration of sentiments from any people of any colour, showing greater magnanimity, modesty, and good sense than those we have quoted above. If the white conventions in the Southern States had evinced equal discretion, the work of reconstruction would be considerably nearer its accomplishment than it is now.

Postscript.

Wednesday, Dec. 27, 1865.

LATEST FOREIGN NEWS. AMERICA.

(Per the City of New York, via Crookhaven.)

NEW YORK, Dec. 16 (Morning).

M. de Montholon, the French Minister at Washington, has despatched the Chief Secretary of Legation to Europe, to ask instructions of the Emperor Napoleon on the Mexican question. It is rumoured that M. de Montholon intimated to the Federal Government that in case a Federal Minister is accredited to Juarez, the French Legation will leave Washington.

ITALY.

FLORENCE, Dec. 26.

The following is the result of the supplementary elections of representatives to the Italian Chamber of Deputies known up to the present:—

Moderates	26
Opposition	19

NAPLES, Dec. 26.

The cholera has entirely disappeared.

FRANCE.

PARIS, Dec. 26.

The Emperor and Empress have paid a visit to the new building of the Tribunal of Commerce.

The director of the Paris School of Medicine has addressed a letter to the parents of those students whose cards of admission to the lectures had been withdrawn, requesting them to recall their sons, in

order to avoid the unpleasant consequences of their taking part in any disturbances.

The *France* of this evening announces that the international conference which is to be held at Constantinople will assemble in the beginning of January.

NEW ZEALAND.

The following telegram from the Colonial Secretary, Wellington, New Zealand, has been forwarded for publication by the New Zealand Government agent in London:—

"The native insurgents were surprised during the present month, and 186 Hau-Hau fanatics have surrendered or were captured, and have taken the oath of allegiance. The friendly natives have gallantly aided in suppressing the Hau-Haus.

"Parliament was prorogued on the 13th October.

"The Stafford Ministry is in office. Expenditure reduced. Revenue improving. West Coast gold fields' returns fast increasing; they yielded during the month 44,945 ounces."

* The telegram bears no date, but October is doubtless the month referred to.

THE CATTLE PLAGUE UNDER HOMOEOPATHY.—In a letter to the *Times* Mr. Caird says—"In the attempt to treat this formidable disease, the Association instituted three weeks ago the first of a series of careful experimental trials in Norfolk. Notice of this was given to the Cattle Plague Commissioners, and an experienced veterinary surgeon, under their direction, has daily watched and noted the proceedings. The Association engaged the services of a skilful and experienced homoeopathic veterinary, who, with two competent assistants, has remained in constant attendance on the cases. The local and personal influence of Lord Bury was warmly engaged in our behalf. But, notwithstanding all these advantages, the result of our first trial has been that, of 35 cases undertaken on the first day of this month, only six remained alive and were convalescent on the 22nd. The cases were taken fairly and indiscriminately, some moribund, others in the first, and some in advanced stages of the disease. Our first trial has thus fallen far short of the anticipations formed from the success of similar practice in Holland. We have but 16 per cent. of cures to place against 46, the proportion shown under all kinds of treatment by the Dutch returns of the 22nd of November. This may possibly be accounted for in part by the different condition of the food of the English and Dutch cattle, the former having been on their winter food of roots and fodder, while the latter were still on their succulent and easily digestible pastures. There would seem to be something also in the nature of the animal itself, as both in Norfolk and in London it has been observed that Dutch cows recover from the disease in much larger proportion than English. But, though we have to lament the want of success which has attended our first trial, it has been full of instruction for future guidance. While the disease has proved very fatal it is not incurable, and many cases which had been successfully treated relapsed from the subsequent use of improper food. Our experience in regard to diet is clear and decisive, and I venture to urge it as a vital point in the management of this disease, whatever principle of medical treatment may be adopted."

BOXING DAY.—Most of the shops in the City and suburbs were closed, and the streets were thronged with holiday-makers. In the evening the theatres and places of amusement were crowded by great audiences. The police reports disclose one gratifying fact. It is that there has been less drunkenness this year than usual. Unfortunately, however, the holiday has been marked by crimes of the worst kind. We report this morning two cases of murder, and one in which a man is likely to die from the injuries he has received. On Sunday morning a man named Cook killed his wife at a village called Wideopen, near Newcastle-on-Tyne. They had been out marketing. Both got drunk, and on their way home Cook beat the woman so that she died. On Sunday morning too, a man named M'Manus killed a poor fellow named Dowd at Manchester. They both had quarrelled, and M'Manus stabbed Dowd in the groin so severely that he shortly afterwards died. The third affair took place in London. There was a great row on Sunday night in the Drummond-road, Bermondsey, in the course of which a man named Shee had his skull fractured so severely that he will die. A man named Edward Miles is in custody, charged with having struck the fatal blow.—*Morning Star*.

A draft of the second battalion 6th Regiment, consisting of Lieutenant C. Whyte, one sergeant, and thirty rank and file, left the camp at Colchester on Friday afternoon for Liverpool, and embark to join the service companies of the regiment at Jamaica.

MARK-LANE.—THIS DAY.

The attendance of the trade here to-day was limited. The supply of English wheat on sale was small, yet the trade for all descriptions ruled quiet, on former terms. About an average supply of foreign wheat was on the stands. Most descriptions were in limited request; nevertheless, prices ruled tolerably firm. Floating cargoes of grain moved off slowly, at late rates. Barley was in fair supply, and the demand ruled heavy, at about stationary prices. Malt sold slowly, at last week's quotations. Oats were in fair supply and moderate request, at previous quotations. Beans were a dull inquiry, at the late decline in prices. Peas moved off slowly, at late rates. The flour trade was quiet, on former terms.

ARRIVALS THIS WEEK.				
Wheat.	Barley.	Malt.	Oats.	Flour.
English and Scotch 140	390	—	130	250
Irish	—	—	—	—
Foreign	2,600	1,570	—	11,200 170 bks.
				3,350 bks.

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"Noncon's" favour has come to hand. We beg him to accept our warmest thanks, and to assure him that his good wishes in our behalf are in the course of being realised.

The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1865.

SUMMARY.

CHRISTMAS DAY has passed without a frost. The remarkable mildness of the weather, if not altogether seasonable, is a great boon to the labouring poor, whose usual work has not been interrupted by cold, and who, spite of the cattle plague, have been saved from paying famine prices at this season by the abundance of provisions. Yesterday was generally observed as a public holiday, in London at least—the streets presenting an aspect only seen on Sundays; and though the scene was changed for the worse at night, we are assured that there was less drunkenness than is usual at this period of the year. There is certainly great room for improvement in the method of enjoying Christmas by the mass of the working classes of England, and for the continued and vigorous action of temperance societies in abating drinking customs as senseless as they are degrading.

The last official returns relative to the cattle plague show that the attacks have risen to 6,000 a week, and that nearly 60,000 animals in all have been assailed by the disease, of which 29,700 had perished, 12,380 had been killed, and 13,306 had recovered or were under treatment. Although not more than four in every thousand of the estimated total head of cattle in Great Britain have been affected by the virulent contagion, its continued extension, and the failure of all curative expedients, more or less, is exciting much alarm. The Government have issued a new order largely increasing the powers of local authorities to prevent the transit of cattle in infected districts. If it should, however, turn out that the disease is small-pox in a suppressed form, as it is now alleged, there will be little difficulty in arresting its progress.

M. Fould has presented a long report on the present state of French finance. The operations, past and prospective, with which he deals extend from 1864 to 1867. It is a financial phantasmagoria, which even the scientific minds of Frenchmen find it difficult to understand—very discouraging in respect to what has been done, full of brilliant promises in regard to the future. At the close of this long term, there appears the shadow of a surplus and a real sinking fund for paying off the immense floating debt of the Empire. But little faith would be placed even in the financial intentions of a Gladstone which were to be realised two years hence. M. Fould is, however, able to show a substantial, though not large, reduction of military expenditure for 1866, and the stress he lays upon the necessity of peace, and the importance of discouraging foreign expeditions and prodigal expenditure at home, may be accepted as a further symptom that his Imperial master is quite alive to the wisdom of the policy he recommends.

The new Italian Parliament has exhibited a praiseworthy spirit of independence, having condemned almost unanimously some illegal acts of the Minister of Finance which, however venial in France, are regarded with wholesome disapprobation in constitutional Italy. The Government has resigned, and Signor Sella's obnoxious Budget has been swept away. But General Della Marmora has been again entrusted with the formation of a Cabinet, and will come back again with most of his former colleagues. No shuffling of the cards, and no commission of

inquiry into the national accounts, will, however, get rid of the enormous deficit which oppresses the new kingdom. Italy seems hardly able to endure additional taxation, and sooner or later Signor Sella's hints that a change of policy, followed by disarmament, must be accepted, will have to be carried into effect, if this enormous debt is to be effectually dealt with, and national bankruptcy averted.

There seems good reason for believing that the Emperor of Austria has made considerable progress in paving the way for a settlement of the Hungarian question. The Diet has not yet taken the Imperial address into consideration, but the speeches of the President and Vice-President exhibit a very reasonable spirit. The Kaiser has, by his frankness, affability, and sedulous attention to the statesmen of Hungary, thoroughly ingratiated himself with the Magyars, and on leaving for Vienna he promised soon to return to Pesth, in company with the Empress. In his anxious desire to bring about a satisfactory compromise with Hungary, he is seconded by M. Deak, the leader of the moderate Liberals, who, while foreseeing the great difficulties in the way, is said to express his belief that they may all be eventually overcome by patience and perseverance. The Hungarians require a separate Ministry and a Budget of their own—claims which it is not easy to reconcile with the interests of the whole Empire.

Though the Southern members are at present excluded from the American Congress, there is a growing feeling in favour of their admission if they will accept moderate conditions, which a committee of the Legislature is endeavouring to draw up. The adoption of the constitutional amendment abolishing slavery will, no doubt, pave the way to a better understanding between North and South. But at present, Congress seems disposed to induce the President to take a more decided attitude in relation to the Mexican Empire, which Mr. Johnson is too wise to accede to. But the most novel feature of American news is the split among the Fenians. Head-Centre Mahony is at daggers drawn with his "Senate," who complain that the funds of the Brotherhood have been squandered upon sumptuous offices. They have repudiated his authority, and set up a Mr. Roberts in his place. The Irish of New York sided with the Head-Centre; those of Chicago and the West take part with the "Senate"; and the practical American people find abundant amusement in these ludicrous squabbles, which have entirely ruined the Fenian movement on the other side of the Atlantic.

POLITICAL RETROSPECT.

As the year 1865 will have been numbered with the past before our next impression is in the hands of our readers, we shall anticipate its exit by a cursory review of the more prominent of its events. Its birth found this country in a state of political languor—its death will leave it in the midst of excitement and expectation. Curiously enough, the sense of comparative helplessness, and therefore of indifference, which for a long time past had settled down, like a dense fog, upon the popular mind, gave way of itself at the death of Lord Palmerston, a little more than two months ago, as though it had been of an artificial character, and needed no external stimulus to get rid of it. Relieved of the pressure which had impeded its natural and healthy action, public opinion instantly showed signs of resuscitation, and although, since the event to which we have alluded, the personnel of the Government has undergone but slight modification, a marked change for the better has established itself in the tone of political thought amongst us, and every one seems to be sensible that he breathes a more salubrious atmosphere than it had been his good fortune to do for some time previously. The death of the noble and venerable Premier was, in fact, the termination of an epoch of domestic inertness, and, perhaps, we are now experiencing a rebound the full force of which has not had time to develop itself in all its strength. It will be seen hereafter whether the opponents of change, especially of organic change, have grounds for congratulating themselves on the long paralysis of public life which they mistook for "reaction," and whether the progress of the next few months will not equal in its extent the factitious delays of three or four preceding years.

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CAPITAL PUNISHMENT—REPORT OF THE COMMISSION.

THE Report of the Capital Punishment Commission appeared in yesterday's *Morning Star*. We are told that it has received the assent of all the Commissioners, so far as its recommendations go, but that several of them are prepared to go farther, and have therefore put their names to a supplementary paragraph expressing the belief of the subscribers that death punishments may be safely abolished. The Commissioners received and have carefully summarised a considerable amount of oral evidence, addressed questions to, and had answers from, nearly all the nations of Europe, and some of the States of the United States of America, and obtained opinions either orally or in writing from all her Majesty's Judges in England, Ireland, and Scotland, as well as from other eminent criminal lawyers.

The Commissioners differed in opinion on the abstract question of the expediency of maintaining or abolishing capital punishments, and therefore, waiving that question, they have adopted a report in which they can all agree.

As in Scotland there still remain many offences which are legally punishable with death, although the penalty has fallen into desuetude, the Commissioners recommend the assimilation of the laws of Scotland to those of England in this respect, by repealing all such obsolete enactments. Assuming that capital punishment is to be retained, they would award it to treason, retaining, however, the existing distinction between treason and treason-felony, as defined by the Statute 11 & 12 Vict. c. 12. In the case of murder, they recommend that the crime be divided into two classes or degrees, to the first of which only the death penalty shall attach. This will apply to murder deliberately committed with express malice aforethought, such malice to be found as a fact by the jury, and also to murder committed in, or with a view to, the perpetration, or escape after perpetration, or attempt at perpetration, of murder, arson, rape, burglary, robbery, or piracy. In all other cases of murder they would assign the punishment of penal servitude, ranging from a *minimum* of seven years to a *maximum* of life. They further recommend a change in the laws as they now apply to infanticide. They would make it an offence liable to penal servitude, or imprisonment at the discretion of the court, unlawfully and maliciously to inflict grievous bodily harm, or serious injury, upon a child during its birth, or, if the child has subsequently died, within seven days after its birth. "With respect to the offence of concealment of birth," they say, "we think that no person should be liable to be convicted of such offence upon an indictment for murder, but should be tried upon a separate indictment. The accused should not be entitled to be acquitted on either of the above cases if it should be proved on the trial that the offence amounted to murder or manslaughter." The witnesses examined were unanimous in their opinion that the power of directing sentence of death to be recorded should be restored to the judges, in which opinion the Commissioners concur. They also urge the propriety of putting an end to public executions, and of carrying out the sentence of death within the precincts of the prison, under such regulations as may be considered necessary to prevent abuse, and satisfy the public that the law has been complied with. On the expediency of allowing an appeal to a court of law in matters of fact in criminal cases, on the mode in which the Crown is advised to exercise the prerogative of mercy, and on the present state of the law as to the nature and degree of insanity which is held to relieve the accused from penal responsibility, the Commissioners, thinking that inquiry on these topics was not authorised by the terms of their Commission, content themselves with soliciting attention to them as requiring further investigation.

Such is a brief outline of the report of the Commission. The evidence on which it is based

we have not yet seen. Our remarks, therefore, must be understood to be subject to modification, although, in the main, we believe they are not likely to be greatly changed by the more detailed information which has yet to be studied.

It is matter of regret rather than of surprise that the Commission has proceeded on the assumption that the punishment of death must be retained in our system of criminal judicature. That society has the right to protect itself by such a weapon is, at least to our thinking, beyond reasonable doubt. That in the present state of social feeling in this country, it is the most efficient weapon of protection, we do not believe. There is a sort of glare about it which fascinates quite as much as it frightens the depraved—a tinsel of heroism which dazzles the minds of those whose moral degradation lays them open to the temptation of murder. Conscience must have been cultivated to a considerable extent in men who would prefer life-long servitude coupled with civil and social oblivion to the momentary pangs of even an ignominious death, and in nineteen cases out of twenty of those who contemplate murder, we suspect, there is no such cultivation of conscience as would render death supremely terrible, at least in the remote anticipation of it. It is an alternative which the culprit desires, of course, and even hopes to escape; but, viewed in the distance, it is one which has about it a glittering haze of attraction. How it may be when executions of capital punishment cease to be carried out in public, can only be determined by experience; but as far as our observation extends, we conclude that "malice aforethought" is deterred in a very slight degree by the prospective chances of a painful and shameful extinction of bodily life. What is to come after that, few people who can commit the crime are disposed to consider. They are usually of a class which can far better understand and far more adequately appreciate the moral certainty of a life of labour, privation, restraint, and oblivion. If, therefore, punishment is to be deterrent as well as vindictory, we are of opinion that it would better answer both ends were it in all cases to stop short of death. We are afraid, however, that the Commissioners have correctly interpreted public, and especially legal, opinion, and we have little hope that either the Government or the legislature will overrule their decision.

In all other respects, we are happy in being able to express our hearty concurrence with the recommendations they have made. The suggested classification of murder into crimes of the first and second degree, thereby getting rid of some of the most absurd technicalities of judge-made law, would offer an unspeakable relief to jurors, and would tend to secure true verdicts and appropriate punishment in many instances which now either escape punishment altogether, or which, in being sentenced, excite an unhealthy sympathy in favour of the criminal. The change recommended with regard to the mode of dealing with infanticide, will also be an improvement. And certainly, if we are to have a continuance of the death punishment, we think there can hardly be two opinions as to the inexpediency of carrying it into effect in the presence of a debauched and brutalised mob, on the pretence of benefiting them by its "moral example." Our objection to this last recommendation is founded in our belief that it will operate to prolong a system which is in our judgment utterly unsuited to the character and wants of the age. We think it would be wiser to abolish capital punishments in all cases, but if that is rendered impracticable by the immaturity of public sentiment and faith, we reluctantly accept as an improvement on the existing usage that which has obtained the approval of Her Majesty's Commissioners.

THE CROWNING GLORY OF 1865.

At this auspicious season, and on the eve of the New Year, there have come to us across the Atlantic tidings of an event peculiarly in harmony with the sentiments of the hour. The civil war in America gave the death-blow to slavery, and President Lincoln's proclamation was the means of releasing many hundreds of thousands of negroes from bondage. But even when the war closed, this great work of emancipation was far from being completed. Though its life was departed, slavery was still a legal institution. Congress had indeed decreed its extinction, but that did not suffice to sweep it away. It was necessary that the decision of the Legislature should be ratified by a majority of three-fourths of the States of the Union before it could become binding. After long delay, the constitutional amendment has been adopted by the requisite number of States, and the American Union is once and for ever purged of the foul blot which has been its national disgrace, and the

cause of multiplied evils. In this solemn act of repudiating a grievous wrong and iniquity, some of the Southern States—Louisiana, Arkansas, Tennessee, North and South Carolina, Virginia, Georgia, and Alabama—have had the honour of co-operating with the Free States of the North. They have given, no doubt, a reluctant consent to the charter of emancipation which has been forced upon them by the course of events. But we confidently believe that the time is not far distant when they will rejoice in having shared in this glorious work, and wonder at the infatuation which could have induced them to cling with such desperate tenacity to a social system which degraded all who were mixed up with it.

Slavery is now legally abolished throughout the length and breadth of the American Union. It is hardly possible to exaggerate the significance of the fact. The formal ratification of the constitutional amendment means, that from three to four millions of human beings who have heretofore been chattels in the eye of the law are henceforth invested with the rights of freemen, and have recovered the birthright which their Creator conferred upon them. Their industry is their own, their families are their own. From a state of hopeless degradation, they emerge into an independent existence, free to labour on their own behalf, free to enjoy life at their own will and pleasure, free to use all the means of self-elevation which have hitherto been denied them. If they are hardly as yet fitted to appreciate this blessed change in their lot, the fault is not theirs. Slavery could only exist in safety by brutifying its victims, and trampling out their manhood. Humanity was crushed out of the negro that he might become a more serviceable chattel. The incubus is now removed. All the motives that operated in the minds of Southern whites to degrade their slaves have ceased to act now that the coloured people are no longer their property, and the dominant race will for the future be able to welcome the progress of the blacks in civilisation and intelligence, as an advantage instead of a danger to themselves.

"Slavery," said John Wesley, "is the sum of all villainies," and the past history of the Southern States amply justifies the description. It has corrupted Southern society to its very core. A system which set at naught the rights of humanity, which legalised slave-breeding and the traffic in flesh and blood, which cast contempt upon the family relations and the sanctity of the marriage tie, which winked at murder and cruelty when a negro was the victim, which required Fugitive Slave Laws to sustain it, and bloodhounds to do its work, which shut the gates of mercy on a whole race, and forbade even the circulation of the Scriptures as dangerous to its supremacy, could have no other result. Those who upheld it for their own selfish purposes were themselves demoralised. They shared in the barbarism which they sustained. All this is now at an end. The whites as well as the blacks are emancipated—the latter from cruel bondage; the former from their league with iniquity. An entire scheme of organisation which was opposed to all law, human and divine, and gave full vent and sanction to the vilest lusts and passions which can degrade our common nature, has been shattered. Those impulses which led the Southern people to support national aggression have no longer any force. The great barrier between them and their Northern fellow-countrymen has been thrown down. Slavery moulded political parties, slavery fought with brutal ferocity in Congress, slavery made tyrants and bullies of intelligent politicians, slavery demanded half a continent and all the political power of an empire that it might work out its own ends. Nearly everything was conceded to its claims by the yielding people of the Free States, till they were found to be insatiable. The "irrepressible conflict" took place, and slavery was overthrown. Sooner or later, North and South will shake hands as members of the same free Commonwealth, between whom the chief source of antagonism, feuds and bitterness for generations past has been for ever dried up.

The passing of the constitutional amendment for the abolition of slavery is the last phase of a grand revolution such as the world has scarcely witnessed—a revolution fraught with incalculable blessings to the whole American people. Humanity is vindicated, law and order are exalted, a foul reproach upon Christianity is removed, by this solemn enactment. It is an event which anti-slavery England ought not to pass over in silence. We can perhaps hardly expect that our Government will set apart a day for the nation to celebrate in a suitable manner this great act of justice and humanity consummated by a kindred people. Nor need we seek the sanction of the State to give expression to our grateful feelings for this crowning mercy of the expiring year. But it would, to our thinking, be both becoming and salutary if the Free Churches of England were by common consent

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"Noncon." favour has come to hand. We beg him to accept our warmest thanks, and to assure him that his good wishes in our behalf are in the course of being realised.

The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1865.

SUMMARY.

CHRISTMAS DAY has passed without a frost. The remarkable mildness of the weather, if not altogether seasonable, is a great boon to the labouring poor, whose usual work has not been interrupted by cold, and who, spite of the cattle plague, have been saved from paying famine prices at this season by the abundance of provisions. Yesterday was generally observed as a public holiday, in London at least—the streets presenting an aspect only seen on Sundays; and though the scene was changed for the worse at night, we are assured that there was less drunkenness than is usual at this period of the year. There is certainly great room for improvement in the method of enjoying Christmas by the mass of the working classes of England, and for the continued and vigorous action of temperance societies in abating drinking customs as senseless as they are degrading.

The last official returns relative to the cattle plague show that the attacks have risen to 6,000 a-week, and that nearly 60,000 animals in all have been assailed by the disease, of which 29,700 had perished, 12,380 had been killed, and 13,306 had recovered or were under treatment. Although not more than four in every thousand of the estimated total head of cattle in Great Britain have been affected by the virulent contagion, its continued extension, and the failure of all curative expedients, more or less, is exciting much alarm. The Government have issued a new order largely increasing the powers of local authorities to prevent the transit of cattle in infected districts. If it should, however, turn out that the disease is small-pox in a suppressed form, as it is now alleged, there will be little difficulty in arresting its progress.

M. Fould has presented a long report on the present state of French finance. The operations, past and prospective, with which he deals extend from 1864 to 1867. It is a financial phantasmagoria, which even the scientific minds of Frenchmen find it difficult to understand—very discouraging in respect to what has been done, full of brilliant promises in regard to the future. At the close of this long term, there appears the shadow of a surplus and a real sinking fund for paying off the immense floating debt of the Empire. But little faith would be placed even in the financial intentions of a Gladstone which were to be realised two years hence. M. Fould is, however, able to show a substantial, though not large, reduction of military expenditure for 1866, and the stress he lays upon the necessity of peace, and the importance of discouraging foreign expeditions and prodigal expenditure at home, may be accepted as a further symptom that his Imperial master is quite alive to the wisdom of the policy he recommends.

The new Italian Parliament has exhibited a praiseworthy spirit of independence, having condemned almost unanimously some illegal acts of the Minister of Finance which, however venial in France, are regarded with wholesome disapprobation in constitutional Italy. The Government has resigned, and Signor Sella's obnoxious Budget has been swept away. But General Della Marmora has been again entrusted with the formation of a Cabinet, and will come back again with most of his former colleagues. No shuffling of the cards, and no commission of

inquiry into the national accounts, will, however, get rid of the enormous deficit which oppresses the new kingdom. Italy seems hardly able to endure additional taxation, and sooner or later Signor Sella's hints that a change of policy, followed by disarmament, must be accepted, will have to be carried into effect, if this enormous debt is to be effectually dealt with, and national bankruptcy averted.

There seems good reason for believing that the Emperor of Austria has made considerable progress in paving the way for a settlement of the Hungarian question. The Diet has not yet taken the Imperial address into consideration, but the speeches of the President and Vice-President exhibit a very reasonable spirit. The Kaiser has, by his frankness, affability, and sedulous attention to the statesmen of Hungary, thoroughly ingratiated himself with the Magyars, and on leaving for Vienna he promised soon to return to Pesth, in company with the Empress. In his anxious desire to bring about a satisfactory compromise with Hungary, he is seconded by M. Deak, the leader of the moderate Liberals, who, while foreseeing the great difficulties in the way, is said to express his belief that they may all be eventually overcome by patience and perseverance. The Hungarians require a separate Ministry and a Budget of their own—claims which it is not easy to reconcile with the interests of the whole Empire.

Though the Southern members are at present excluded from the American Congress, there is a growing feeling in favour of their admission if they will accept moderate conditions, which a committee of the Legislature is endeavouring to draw up. The adoption of the constitutional amendment abolishing slavery will, no doubt, pave the way to a better understanding between North and South. But at present, Congress seems disposed to induce the President to take a more decided attitude in relation to the Mexican Empire, which Mr. Johnson is too wise to accede to. But the most novel feature of American news is the split among the Fenians. Head-Centre Mahony is at daggers drawn with his "Senate," who complain that the funds of the Brotherhood have been squandered upon sumptuous offices. They have repudiated his authority, and set up a Mr. Roberts in his place. The Irish of New York sided with the Head-Centre; those of Chicago and the West take part with the "Senate"; and the practical American people find abundant amusement in these ludicrous squabbles, which have entirely ruined the Fenian movement on the other side of the Atlantic.

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THE Report of the Capital Punishment Commission appeared in yesterday's *Morning Star*. We are told that it has received the assent of all the Commissioners, so far as its recommendations go, but that several of them are prepared to go farther, and have therefore put their names to a supplementary paragraph expressing the belief of the subscribers that death punishments may be safely abolished. The Commissioners received and have carefully summarised a considerable amount of oral evidence, addressed questions to, and had answers from, nearly all the nations of Europe, and some of the States of the United States of America, and obtained opinions either orally or in writing from all her Majesty's Judges in England, Ireland, and Scotland, as well as from other eminent criminal lawyers.

The Commissioners differed in opinion on the abstract question of the expediency of maintaining or abolishing capital punishments, and therefore, waiving that question, they have adopted a report in which they can all agree.

As in Scotland there still remain many offences which are legally punishable with death, although the penalty has fallen into desuetude, the Commissioners recommend the assimilation of the laws of Scotland to those of England in this respect, by repealing all such obsolete enactments. Assuming that capital punishment is to be retained, they would award it to treason, retaining, however, the existing distinction between treason and treason-felony, as defined by the Statute 11 & 12 Vict. c. 12. In the case of murder, they recommend that the crime be divided into two classes or degrees, to the first of which only the death penalty shall attach. This will apply to murder deliberately committed with express malice aforethought, such malice to be found as a fact by the jury, and also to murder committed in, or with a view to, the perpetration, or escape after perpetration, or attempt at perpetration, of murder, arson, rape, burglary, robbery, or piracy. In all other cases of murder they would assign the punishment of penal servitude, ranging from a *minimum* of seven years to a *maximum* of life. They further recommend a change in the laws as they now apply to infanticide. They would make it an offence liable to penal servitude, or imprisonment at the discretion of the court, unlawfully and maliciously to inflict grievous bodily harm, or serious injury, upon a child during its birth, or, if the child has subsequently died, within seven days after its birth. "With respect to the offence of concealment of birth," they say, "we think that no person should be liable to be convicted of such offence upon an indictment for murder, but should be tried upon a separate indictment. The accused should not be entitled to be acquitted on either of the above cases if it should be proved on the trial that the offence amounted to murder or manslaughter." The witnesses examined were unanimous in their opinion that the power of directing sentence of death to be recorded should be restored to the judges, in which opinion the Commissioners concur. They also urge the propriety of putting an end to public executions, and of carrying out the sentence of death within the precincts of the prison, under such regulations as may be considered necessary to prevent abuse, and satisfy the public that the law has been complied with. On the expediency of allowing an appeal to a court of law in matters of fact in criminal cases, on the mode in which the Crown is advised to exercise the prerogative of mercy, and on the present state of the law as to the nature and degree of insanity which is held to relieve the accused from penal responsibility, the Commissioners, thinking that inquiry on these topics was not authorised by the terms of their Commission, content themselves with soliciting attention to them as requiring further investigation.

Such is a brief outline of the report of the Commission. The evidence on which it is based

we have not yet seen. Our remarks, therefore, must be understood to be subject to modification, although, in the main, we believe they are not likely to be greatly changed by the more detailed information which has yet to be studied.

It is matter of regret rather than of surprise that the Commission has proceeded on the assumption that the punishment of death must be retained in our system of criminal judicature. That society has the right to protect itself by such a weapon is, at least to our thinking, beyond reasonable doubt. That in the present state of social feeling in this country, it is the most efficient weapon of protection, we do not believe. There is a sort of glare about it which fascinates quite as much as it frightens the depraved—a tinsel of heroism which dazzles the minds of those whose moral degradation lays them open to the temptation of murder. Conscience must have been cultivated to a considerable extent in men who would prefer life-long servitude coupled with civil and social oblivion to the momentary pangs of even an ignominious death, and in nineteen cases out of twenty of those who contemplate murder, we suspect, there is no such cultivation of conscience as would render death supremely terrible, at least in the remote anticipation of it. It is an alternative which the culprit desires, of course, and even hopes to escape; but, viewed in the distance, it is one which has about it a glittering haze of attraction. How it may be when executions of capital punishment cease to be carried out in public, can only be determined by experience; but as far as our observation extends, we conclude that "malice aforethought" is deterred in a very slight degree by the prospective chance of a painful and shameful extinction of bodily life. What is to come after that, few people who can commit the crime are disposed to consider. They are usually of a class which can far better understand and far more adequately appreciate the moral certainty of a life of labour, privation, restraint, and oblivion. If, therefore, punishment is to be deterrent as well as vindictory, we are of opinion that it would better answer both ends were it in all cases to stop short of death. We are afraid, however, that the Commissioners have correctly interpreted public, and especially legal, opinion, and we have little hope that either the Government or the legislature will overrule their decision.

In all other respects, we are happy in being able to express our hearty concurrence with the recommendations they have made. The suggested classification of murder into crimes of the first and second degree, thereby getting rid of some of the most absurd technicalities of judge-made law, would offer an unspeakable relief to jurors, and would tend to secure true verdicts and appropriate punishment in many instances which now either escape punishment altogether, or which, in being sentenced, excite an unhealthy sympathy in favour of the criminal. The change recommended with regard to the mode of dealing with infanticide, will also be an improvement. And certainly, if we are to have a continuance of the death punishment, we think there can hardly be two opinions as to the inexpediency of carrying it into effect in the presence of a debauched and brutalised mob, on the pretence of benefiting them by its "moral example." Our objection to this last recommendation is founded in our belief that it will operate to prolong a system which is in our judgment utterly unsuited to the character and wants of the age. We think it would be wiser to abolish capital punishments in all cases, but if that is rendered impracticable by the immaturity of public sentiment and faith, we reluctantly accept as an improvement on the existing usage that which has obtained the approval of Her Majesty's Commissioners.

THE CROWNING GLORY OF 1865.

At this auspicious season, and on the eve of the New Year, there have come to us across the Atlantic tidings of an event peculiarly in harmony with the sentiments of the hour. The civil war in America gave the death-blow to slavery, and President Lincoln's proclamation was the means of releasing many hundreds of thousands of negroes from bondage. But even when the war closed, this great work of emancipation was far from being completed. Though its life was departed, slavery was still a legal institution. Congress had indeed decreed its extinction, but that did not suffice to sweep it away. It was necessary that the decision of the Legislature should be ratified by a majority of three-fourths of the States of the Union before it could become binding. After long delay, the constitutional amendment has been adopted by the requisite number of States, and the American Union is once and for ever purged of the foul blot which has been its national disgrace, and the

cause of multiplied evils. In this solemn act of repudiating a grievous wrong and iniquity, some of the Southern States—Louisiana, Arkansas, Tennessee, North and South Carolina, Virginia, Georgia, and Alabama—have had the honour of co-operating with the Free States of the North. They have given, no doubt, a reluctant consent to the charter of emancipation which has been forced upon them by the course of events. But we confidently believe that the time is not far distant when they will rejoice in having shared in this glorious work, and wonder at the infatuation which could have induced them to cling with such desperate tenacity to a social system which degraded all who were mixed up with it.

Slavery is now legally abolished throughout the length and breadth of the American Union. It is hardly possible to exaggerate the significance of the fact. The formal ratification of the constitutional amendment means, that from three to four millions of human beings who have heretofore been chattels in the eye of the law are henceforth invested with the rights of freemen, and have recovered the birthright which their Creator conferred upon them. Their industry is their own, their families are their own. From a state of hopeless degradation, they emerge into an independent existence, free to labour on their own behalf, free to enjoy life at their own will and pleasure, free to use all the means of self-elevation which have hitherto been denied them. If they are hardly as yet fitted to appreciate this blessed change in their lot, the fault is not theirs. Slavery could only exist in safety by brutifying its victims, and trampling out their manhood. Humanity was crushed out of the negro that he might become a more serviceable chattel. The incubus is now removed. All the motives that operated in the minds of Southern whites to degrade their slaves have ceased to act now that the coloured people are no longer their property, and the dominant race will for the future be able to welcome the progress of the blacks in civilisation and intelligence, as an advantage instead of a danger to themselves.

"Slavery," said John Wesley, "is the sum of all villainies," and the past history of the Southern States amply justifies the description. It has corrupted Southern society to its very core. A system which set at naught the rights of humanity, which legalised slave-breeding and the traffic in flesh and blood, which cast contempt upon the family relations and the sanctity of the marriage tie, which winked at murder and cruelty when a negro was the victim, which required Fugitive Slave Laws to sustain it, and bloodhounds to do its work, which shut the gates of mercy on a whole race, and forbade even the circulation of the Scriptures as dangerous to its supremacy, could have no other result. Those who upheld it for their own selfish purposes were themselves demoralised. They shared in the barbarism which they sustained. All this is now at an end. The whites as well as the blacks are emancipated—the latter from cruel bondage; the former from their league with iniquity. An entire scheme of organisation which was opposed to all law, human and divine, and gave full vent and sanction to the vilest lusts and passions which can degrade our common nature, has been shattered. Those impulses which led the Southern people to support national aggression have no longer any force. The great barrier between them and their Northern fellow-countrymen has been thrown down. Slavery moulded political parties, slavery fought with brutal ferocity in Congress, slavery made tyrants and bullies of intelligent politicians, slavery demanded half a continent and all the political power of an empire that it might work out its own ends. Nearly everything was conceded to its claims by the yielding people of the Free States, till they were found to be insatiable. The "irrepressible conflict" took place, and slavery was overthrown. Sooner or later, North and South will shake hands as members of the same free Commonwealth, between whom the chief source of antagonism, feuds and bitterness for generations past has been for ever dried up.

The passing of the constitutional amendment for the abolition of slavery is the last phase of a grand revolution such as the world has scarcely witnessed—a revolution fraught with incalculable blessings to the whole American people. Humanity is vindicated, law and order are exalted, a foul reproach upon Christianity is removed, by this solemn enactment. "It is an event which anti-slavery England ought not to pass over in silence. We can perhaps hardly expect that our Government will set apart a day for the nation to celebrate in a suitable manner this great act of justice and humanity consummated by a kindred people. Nor need we seek the sanction of the State to give expression to our grateful feelings for this crowning mercy of the expiring year. But it would, to our thinking, be both becoming and salutary if the Free Churches of England were, by common consent

to set apart some Sunday early in 1866 for special services and thanksgivings to the Father of all men in connection with an event which, by His overruling providence, has emancipated four millions of slaves, sealed the doom of slavery all the world over, vindicated the national honour of a great nation allied to us by blood and sympathy, and which opens a wide door for the extension of Christianity.

"IN MY FATHER'S HOUSE."

HOME! going home. The welcoming music of those eager home questions and answers, in which every single voice has its own distinct and melodious part—these are echoes which are still lingering in the air, and repeating themselves in our thoughts.

Grant that the great anniversary did not in all points accommodate itself to the programme—was there no unexpected vein of delight opened to make up for omissions? Is not the unforeseen joy, the unpremeditated kindness, often the sweetest? Grant that the Christmas Day of literature is a different thing from the Christmas Day celebrated in real, ordinary, human life, is not fact, be it ever so homely, better than fiction, be it ever so bright? No doubt it is only in Christmas stories that the turkey is always so large, and the pudding such a paragon, and that Old Scrooge always relents in time, and Mrs. Chickentalker and her train appear on the scene just at the right moment. But what then? The poor author can but describe what admits of description. Let him paint thoroughly what he does paint, if but to suggest what he will after all have to leave unportrayed. It is no more possible to put our veritable English Christmas into print, than it is to make the acquaintance of our great English poet through "Beauties of Shakspeare." There are a thousand humours and tendernesses of the day, far too fleeting to be caught by the quickest of pens, far too subtle to be cast by the delicatest fancy in her moulds. All honour to the attempt notwithstanding, and a large allowance for its failures! Prosperity and success to it, for the sake of the solitary emigrant at sea, and the Australian stockman, and the London lodger who has no living Dr. Marigold outside to amuse him—no Mrs. Lirriper in the flesh to lay plots with the Major downstairs for his consolation. And yet we had rather have the substance than the most liberally coloured shadow. Not all the story-books in the world come within a mile of a real Christmas at home, where you value the tones of the speaker even more than the tale which he tells; where you see the vanished years come and go in flashes among the glowing embers, while the chestnuts glimmer and snap between the bars; where the golden threads of ancient recollection and love weave themselves over and over again round your heart; and where the simple tune of the carol or the glee does not in the least drown those great chords of deeply buried feeling which come vibrating out of their long silence and concealment, and roll in happy waves from one heart to another.

But the case is different when we turn from the intellectual domain to that of the soul. Our festivals do find in the world invisible and eternal a counterpart of themselves, in every way exalted and enlarged. Is it because of the inadequacy of every human relationship, or is it not rather one element of their value, that all ties of kindred seem to merge beyond a certain point in something greater, and lead out of their own sphere into a vaster and more enduring one? It is no condemnation of the roof under which we were born, that it is not everlasting, like "the house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." It belongs less to the shame than to the glory of humanity, that on earth no one human life admits of being all through its course touched at every point by any other. If, as our Dorsetshire poet says, "a man is made of a child," we must be content to forego, in the process, that unbroken repose of affection which might be congenial to one who for ever "thought as a child, and spake as a child." Sooner or later we are thrust out into deep water from the side where we clung. Bitter was the wrench of bereavement, rude were the shocks of change through which many once passed, who are now themselves the firm pillar and rallying point of love to a whole family community. They could have been well content for a long time yet to come to be only a branch among other branches attached to the parent stem. Seldom is a new centre of hospitality and affection created for the future without some thick darkness flung over the present by the shadows which the joys of the past throw in departing.

With trembling fingers drew we weave
The holly round the Christmas hearth;
A rainy cloud possessed the earth,
And sadly fell our Christmas eve.

"We will not keep Christmas this year," it is sometimes said. Yet the very day whose delights may be thus clouded with sorrow, commemorates how sorrow was about to be vanquished by being endured, and a birth which was to take death's sting away. When He said, "In my Father's house are many mansions," our Lord knew that He was Himself the connecting link between the seen and the unseen, things present and things eternal. Adding much, He took nothing away. First of all He associates all that is innocent and good in our household life with His presence and benediction, and then points within the veil to that higher and perfect ideal of home, which He means surely to be a reality to us in time as well as eternity. "A correspondence fixed with heaven" introduces at once into human life a firm hold on the imperishable. We want permanency and fixedness, here as well as hereafter.

What is there that will last?
All things are taken from us, and become
Portions and parcels of the dreadful past.

The affections and hopes which are turned towards the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, are for no one period of life only; no change of salvation or scene makes them irrelevant: they identify us with Heaven and eternity while we are still in time, and perpetuate our fellowship with our friends who are gone into the land of light, keeping alive our faith that both they and we, living or dying, are the Lord's.

If a father never died prematurely, and if sons were never scattered over the wide world, there would still be an inexpressible comfort in knowing that a wisdom and a goodness infinitely greater than our own, are for ever considering and acting on behalf of our children. We yearn to do more for them than we may, and to be to them more than we can. Is it we who are slower to acquire the art of wise guardianship and rule? or is it our offspring who are quicker in outgrowing our proficiency when we acquire it? Two or three stages of our life are perhaps already gone before we begin learning our duty, and lo! while we are still hard at work over our lesson, the opportunity for practising it has vanished. To-day it appears to you that you have but lately put childish things away, and you are still vexed with a trace of boyish awkwardness and inexperience. To-morrow, your own children will be sprung into boyhood, and your boys shooting up into men, and beginning to try the wings of independent taste and opinion.

These considerations do not prove the influence of parents to be weak, or incurably precarious. What they prove is simply that parents are human. The office would be not human, but Divine, were we put in trust with each other's entire destiny, or encouraged to pretend to be perfect as models, or infallible as guides. Brought together and combined, the services of the parent and the teacher, and indeed of many instructors and friends, do but form in the total good which they effect a faint miniature of what our Creator and Redeemer effects for us all.

One use and intention of the copy, both in its attractiveness and its imperfection, is to lead us ever back to the great Divine Original. All best and purest human affections find their archetype in that character and life of Jesus of which He said, "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father." Nor does our Lord seem to have regarded His own brief mortal history as a perfectly complete and adequate disclosure. Even to that manifestation there was something to be added. The designs of a love which is literally immeasurable and inexhaustible cannot be revealed fully, except as by a parable, and speaking to faith through the imagination. One figure which our Lord employs is doubly significant to us here in England at a time when innumerable houses are receiving their children home:—"In my Father's house are many mansions." We are to conceive of a vast pile of building, immense, manifold, yet penetrated throughout by one spirit, filled with one climate of pure, disinterested affection.

Large even to sumptuousness, the separate galleries and reception-rooms are palatial. Besides every place ordained duly for labour or for rest, there are banqueting-halls and havens of solitude, aisles and naves for adoration, and honourable guest-chambers, apartments goodly and fitting for young men and maidens, old men and children. The gates open of their own accord to let in every friend of the house as he arrives; and while he is yet on his journey, or rests on the way, presents go to him out of store-houses, under the Father's roof, themselves mansionlike, wherein are treasured up unsearchable riches, "wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption."

More, the august Host welcomes all who come hither, as already, by a personal intimacy, known to Him. It is for ever they are to dwell with Him, but

for a time He dwelt with them. "Jesus said, If a man love me, he will keep my words, and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him."

POST-OFFICE DIRECTORY FOR 1866.

We are indebted to Messrs. Kelly and Co. for a copy of their invaluable Directory for the new year, being the sixty-seventh year of its publication. It is almost needless to repeat what becomes every year more abundantly evident, that the "Post-office Directory" is a model of what such a work should be. Sixty-seven years is a pretty long apprenticeship to any kind of work, and one can scarcely conceive of the standard of perfection exhibited in the production of this volume being reached except by a gradual process, the machinery originally employed being from time to time improved and adapted to the growing necessities of the times. If the compilers of "Bradshaw" would only grapple as successfully with the difficulties which railway growth presents as Messrs. Kelly have dealt with and continue to deal with the altering conditions of the metropolis, they would earn the gratitude of all travellers. There is apparently no alteration in the plan of the present Directory from that of the preceding year. The increase in the number of pages is fifty-three. The usual Introduction is placed at the commencement of the volume, which, together with the Alphabetical Index, ought to enable everyone to find out everything and everybody if they possess "a local habitation and a name" in the metropolis. It may seem rather presumptuous to suggest any improvement in a work of such perfection, but would it not be feasible as well as appropriate in a Directory having the patronage of the General Post-office to indicate on the map the circuit of three miles from the General Post-office as well as that of four miles from Charing-cross? If none others would appreciate this service, we feel assured that those connected with the newspaper world would value it.

NATIONAL EDUCATION IN IRELAND.—A deputation of the graduates of the Queen's University of Ireland waited on the Lord-Lieutenant at a late hour on Friday afternoon in order to submit to Lord Wodehouse a statement of their views on collegiate and general public education in Ireland, which has just been read and approved of at a public meeting in Belfast. Mr. Chichester Fortescue, Chief Secretary, was present. The "statement" is a pamphlet of thirty-one pages, signed by D. Ross, M.A., LL.B., chairman. They say that by the recent amended charter of the Queen's University in Ireland a convocation was created, but, as it has not yet been summoned, they think it right to state their opinions on the alleged intended changes which they have a difficulty in dealing with, because they are undefined. They give a brief sketch of the history of public education in Ireland, and of the principle of the National Board and its success. They refer to the existing provisions for religious instruction in the Queen's Colleges, which they consider ample, and quote speeches of Sir James Graham, Sir R. Peel, Sir Thomas Wyse, Mr. Sheil, and Lord Palmerston, on the importance of the mixed system of secular education. They contend that no case has been made for a change of policy and the substitution of sectarian for united education. They declare that the Queen's Colleges have been a success, and affirm that statistics have been misused to make it appear that Roman Catholics are inadequately represented in this arrangement. The system (they say) is rising in the estimation of moderate men. Those who prefer sectarian education can, they hold, get degrees at present sufficiently easy. Finally, the graduates sum up their views thus:—

We think that everything should be done consistently with a firm opposition to sectarianism (no matter by whom or in what form advocated) to enlist all classes of Irishmen in favour of a complete system of public education. But, in considering the question whether any and what change is to be made, it is not hastily to be assumed that those who drew and sanctioned the statutes of the Queen's Colleges acted without consideration for the feelings and opinions of those who were thought to be opposed to the colleges. They urge that the intended modification should be submitted to the convocation of the Queen's University for their approval, and state that, if any modification be found impossible without destroying or endangering the course of non-sectarian education, it will be, in their judgment, "the solemn duty of those entrusted with the government of the country with firmness to refrain from change, and to maintain and develop a system which has been already fruitful in good in Ireland."

The Lord-Lieutenant, after the substance of the document had been stated by Mr. Ross, said that he would forward it to the Government, and, for himself, he considered it an admirable and complete setting forth of the arguments which can be adduced in support of the view taken by the graduates. He wished it to be known at the same time, that whatever might be done in the matter, both he and Mr. Fortescue were of opinion that the united system of education was in itself the best system.

FENIANISM IN AMERICA.

(From the *Daily News*.)

That great house, the "Executive Mansion" at New York, with its clerks, and "all the machinery of a regular Government," are destroying Fenianism in the United States, and it is not improbable that the cause itself may vanish in a vulgar riot. Already the New York newspapers which fostered the Fenian delusion are threatening its leaders with the terrors of the city police, but the quarrel which has broken out between the members of the Fenian Government may yet anticipate the action of that force, and render it unnecessary. It seems that the latest offspring of the revolutionary spirit is no more exempt than older Governments from the machinations of sedition and the attack of destructive passions. A formidable notice has appeared in the New York journals, being nothing less than a proclamation by "President" O'Mahony warning the citizens of the Irish Republic of "traitors" in his own Senate, and announcing that "he would know how to punish domestic faction." After this terrible announcement, which in energy exceeds anything issued from Dublin Castle, who can doubt that the Fenians have a real government? But admonitions are not enough; there must also be trials, and in the present constitution of Fenianism these make a game which two can play at. It seems that the quarrel arose about money, nominally about the bonds of the Irish Republic, and it has now resulted in the "impeachment" of all the persons originally concerned in the "Government." The Fenian Senate have impeached President O'Mahony, and President O'Mahony has impeached all the members of the Senate who took action against him. Each party declare that they alone are constitutional, and they charge each other with "abusing the confidence of the Brotherhood, with misappropriating, squandering, or dishonestly using its funds, and with base and treasonable betrayal of the cause of the Irish Republic." Nothing worse than this has been alleged against the Government of Queen Victoria. These gentlemen ought to know what they are saying. Their candid opinion of one another was not needed, perhaps, to enlighten the judgment of impartial observers, but it may be useful to those who have hitherto furnished the funds over which the Fenian President and Senate are quarrelling. It seems that about three weeks ago the Senate, which had served summonses upon President O'Mahony and R. D. Killian, the Secretary of the Treasury of the Fenian Brotherhood, to appear for trial on the charges on which they were to be impeached, proceeded to try those persons. O'Mahony and Killian, who had disregarded the order to appear, were "found guilty," and the Senate expelled them from office. W. R. Roberts was then appointed the new President of the Brotherhood. O'Mahony, however, was equal to the occasion, and met this proceeding by serving a letter of impeachment on the senators, and declaring their offices vacant; so that now the Fenians have two Presidents and two Senates, at open war with one another. We are told, and can easily believe, that Irishmen in all parts of the Union are taking sides in the contest. Perhaps this intestine quarrel may satisfy their instinctive combativeness, as well as the more sanguinary encounters with this country and its dependencies, of which we have heard so much. After this struggle, however, it will be difficult to reinstate Fenianism in its old importance before the world. For some reasons we could have wished that the display had been postponed for a month or two. Our Government, our Press, and our Judges have been treating Fenianism as a very serious thing, and we are all committed to that line. We cannot suddenly change ground; Mr. Justice Keogh must be kept in countenance; whereas this ridiculous demonstration suggests to the world that we have been making too much of an absurd imposture. This, however, is a matter as to which we have no choice; and, perhaps, on the whole, it is better that Fenianism should visibly collapse amidst the laughter of the world, than owe its suppression entirely to stern justice.

Court, Official, and Personal News.

The Prince of Wales and the King of Portugal returned to England on Wednesday from their attendance on the funeral of the King of the Belgians. The King went to Osborne on Thursday on a visit to her Majesty.

The Rev. Dr. Montgomery, the head of the Unitarian body in the north of Ireland, has just died at the age of 78.

Mr. John Stuart Mill, M.P., has accepted the office of Rector of the University of St. Andrews, to which he was recently elected. It will be remembered that at the time of the election it was said Mr. Mill would not accept the honour.

The annual Christmas presentation of beef to the cottagers on the royal estate at Sandringham took place on Monday morning. On the terrace at the west front of the house were provided tables, on which were placed about fifty stone of beef, cut up into pieces of various sizes. The Prince of Wales gave away the beef, the Princess being a spectator of the interesting proceedings from a window. The recipients, numbering at least 250, comprised the whole of the cottagers in the parishes of Sandringham, Babingley, West Newton, and Wolferton, and those occupying the cottages of the Prince of Wales at Dersingham, as well as a number of aged widows of Dersingham, not residing on the royal estate.

The *Court Journal* says that among the many claims which the late King of the Belgians had upon the affection of our Queen, was the fact that his Majesty, during the period that the Queen was a Princess, and not fully provided for by the State, allowed her an income of 6,000*l.* a-year.

Her Majesty has been pleased to confer a baronetcy on Mr. William Fergusson, F.R.S., the distinguished surgeon, and well-known from his valuable contributions to the advancement of the science of medicine.

Mr. Pennell, of the Colonial Office, is appointed to act as private secretary to Mr. Forster, Under-Secretary of State.

Sir Hugh Cairns is, we regret to learn, so much indisposed that his medical advisers have ordered him to pass the winter in the south of France.

The Hon. Julian Fane, now Secretary at Vienna, will succeed the Hon. W. Grey as Secretary of Embassy at Paris.

Mr. Bright, M.P., will, it is expected, be present at a meeting on the subject of Parliamentary Reform, to be held at Rochdale on the 3rd of January.

It is rumoured that Mr. Gladstone has decided upon a low uniform duty upon all French wines, whether in cask or bottle, and that the duty will be 1*s.* per gallon.

The Earl of St. Germans is in such a poor state of health as to compel him to resign the Lord Stewardship of the Queen's household. His lordship will be succeeded by the Earl of Bessborough, Master of the Buckhounds.

Her Majesty has been pleased to advance Sir Roderick Murchison to the dignity of a Baronet, "in recognition of distinguished merit and attainments."

Miscellaneous News.

GREAT NORTHERN HOSPITAL, CALEDONIAN-ROAD, ISLINGTON, N.—Number of patients for the week ending 25th December—1,077, of which 172 were new cases.

CHRISTMAS DAY IN THE WORKHOUSES.—The morning papers give lengthened accounts of the Christmas hospitalities in the London workhouses. The returns establish the fact that, whether resulting from the high price of provisions or from whatever cause it may arise, there is a considerable increase of pauperism throughout the metropolitan districts.

THE BRITISH MUSEUM.—A refreshment-room has just been opened at the British Museum for the convenience of visitors to that establishment. The purveyor (Mr. R. H. Muffit) has been appointed by the trustees upon the express condition that light refreshments of every kind, and only of the best quality, should be supplied by him at a moderate cost. Parties and holiday folks from a distance have long felt the want of this accommodation, which until now was only to be had outside the Museum.

The constitutional reform adopted by the Diet of Stockholm has caused as much satisfaction in Norway as in Sweden. The King himself sent the intelligence to the President of the Council of Norway in a telegram commencing with the words, "Honour to the Swedish nobility!" That despatch was received with enthusiastic applause. An opinion is general that the reform will not stop at the Swedish constitution, and that Norway will consent to revise the compact of union.

ACCIDENTS IN THE STREETS OF LONDON.—The slaughter of human beings in the streets of London is becoming really terrible. Since the beginning of the present year, according to the Registrar-General, no fewer than 215 persons of various ages have been killed by horse conveyances "in the dirty, neglected, and ill-regulated streets of London." And even this is not a complete bill of the mortality due to this cause, for deaths caused indirectly by injuries received in the streets are entered under another head. Moreover, all accidents, however severe, which do not end fatally, are of course omitted from the reckoning.

THE CATTLE PLAGUE is still extending. The returns made up for the week ending December 16th gave a total for the week of 6,954 against 5,356 for the preceding week. The returns for Yorkshire were 1,202 against 1,037 in the preceding week. In the metropolitan police district the disease appears to be stayed, the number of cases having fallen to 43. In Scotland also there was an improvement, the numbers having fallen from 1,881 to 1,701. In the South Midland, the Eastern Counties, the North Midland, and the North-Western Counties there was a serious and alarming increase.

A REMARKABLE CASE is reported from the Staffordshire Potteries. Four of the children of a "thrower in a pottery," living near Hanley, died within a short time of each other. On examining the body of the eldest the surgeon found marks of poisoning, accounted for on the theory that he had eaten rancid butter from the produce of a diseased cow. It was shown in evidence that the children had partaken of rancid butter; and the supposition was so plausible that a portion of the butter, as well as the intestines of one of the children, were directed to be sent to Birmingham to be analysed. The children were of the respective ages of one, two, four, and five.

DR. LANKESTER ON CHILD MURDER.—Dr. Lankester, coroner for Middlesex, presided at the Marylebone Literary Institute and Club, Edwards-street, Portman-square, on Friday evening, on the occasion of a lecture on "Infanticide, and how to stop it," delivered by the Rev. W. W. Malet, chaplain to Lord Brougham. Dr. Lankester, in opening the proceedings, remarked that the subject of the lecture was an all-important one. England was spoken of as a nation of child-murderers; and when Englishmen spoke of the crimes of other nations, the child-murders of their own country were thrown in their teeth. It was a very unhappy thing that it was so, and that it should be calculated that one out of every thirty women met in the street was a child-murderer. The sooner the country got rid of that blot the better. A denunciation of the crime ought to be openly and boldly pronounced. He did not think the newspaper press was at all earnest in the matter, because the few paragraphs which appeared on the subject were not at all equal to the depth and amount of the crime. He did not think the judges of the land were sufficiently severe upon the crime,

Almost every woman—caught even in the act of child-murder—was acquitted as a rule. In fact, every woman knew she could murder her child with impunity in this country; and England was the only country in the world in which a woman could murder her child with impunity. The woman was pitied, but her innocent victim was forgotten. The crime of infanticide was positively ignored in this country, and that while they were holding themselves forth as an example to the world.

Lord Stanley, M.P., has been entertained at a banquet by the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce. The principal topics of his lordship's speech on the occasion were the political obligations of rank, the improved feeling which now prevails between the "territorial body" and the manufacturing and trading classes, the advantage of chambers of commerce, and the expediency of instituting tribunals of commerce. Sir Charles Bright, M.P., who was one of the other speakers, condemned the Indian telegraph lines as the worst he had ever seen; badly put up, and badly worked by under-paid half-castes.

THE METROPOLITAN RAILWAY.—On Saturday morning, at half-past five o'clock, the new extension portion of the Metropolitan Railway from Farringdon-street to Moorgate Station, Little Moorfields, was opened, as previously announced, for public traffic. From the starting of the first train the carriages were loaded with passengers, and by noon many thousands had been carried to and from the City. The old station in Farringdon-street has been partly closed, the only train running from that terminus being those for the Great Western and Great Northern Railways. Throughout the morning the scenes at the new Farringdon-street, Aldersgate, and Moorgate Stations were most exciting, owing to the immense traffic. It is stated that 3,000,000 tickets have been ordered for the new extension traffic.

UNREAPED CORN FIELDS AT CHRISTMAS.—There are at this moment standing in the parish of Ropley, near Redditch, three fields of uncut corn which have been allowed to go to waste in consequence of a dispute about its ownership. The corn is standing on the Holt-end farm, and presents a sad spectacle of waste. A great quantity of the corn has shed upon the ground, and is growing again. The rest forms capital feeding ground for the birds of the air, who visit the three fields in thousands. The wheat was an excellent crop, and when at maturity was reckoned to yield about 30 bushels per acre. The three fields are together about 24 acres, and the total produce therefore was about 720 bushels, and valuing the produce at only 5*s.* per bushel, the crop was worth 200*l.*, all of which has been wasted. A few days ago a number of poor women entered one of the fields and cut off the best of the heads of corn left.

FATAL COLLIERY EXPLOSION AT MERTHYR.—A terrible explosion occurred near Merthyr Tydfil on Wednesday morning in the Geithin coal-pit, which belongs to Mr. W. Crawshaw. The "choke-damp," as the miners call it, exploded, it is believed from contact with an injured Davy lamp, and killed 30 men out of 40 present in the "heading," severely wounded the remaining 10, and injured more or less seriously 22 other persons. Three of the men were so burnt as to be unrecognisable, and one of them was taken to a house believed to be his, and his wife, half mad with the shock, was taken with the pains of labour, and carried to bed. A few minutes after in walked her husband hale and well, the bearers having mistaken the identity of the dead man.

THE FENIAN TRIALS AT CORK.—Friday was occupied with the trial of O'Callaghan Holmes O'Reardon, late captain in the Federal army, and formerly sergeant-major in the 10th Hussars, with which corps he served in the Crimea. The approver, Warner, deposed that he saw the prisoner give instructions in the use of the rifle; and a new informer, named Connell, that he heard him say he would return from America with 200,000 Fenians. Mr. M. J. Barry, who alone defended the prisoner, addressed the jury on his behalf. The jury, after a few minutes' deliberation, returned a verdict of Acquittal. Alexander Nicholls was put forward; he pleaded Guilty, and was let out on giving heavy bail to come up when called on. The court now stands adjourned till Wednesday (this day), when the trials will be resumed.

SALE OF LORD PALMERSTON'S EFFECTS.—Lord Palmerston's effects are to be sold by auction at Cambridge House on Tuesday, the 9th January. The dining-room suite, which is of carved Spanish mahogany, consists of a noble pedestal sideboard, massive telescope dining-tables, &c. The morning-room suite is in white and gold, covered in crimson figured silk, with mahogany book-cases and chairs. In the breakfast-room there is a splendidly-executed and very massive bronze pedestal hot-air stove by Vuillamy, made expressly for his Royal Highness the late Duke of Cambridge. In the ball-room, with which so many distinguished visitors are familiar, there are three very beautiful cut-glass chandeliers, one for sixty lights, and two for thirty-five lights each. Besides these there are an immense number of interesting objects in Sienna marble, mahoganies of different kinds, maple, &c., and the several items of the domestic offices.

FINE FOR REFUSING TO SUBMIT A CHILD TO VACCINATION.—At Bownes, last week, Dr. Hall appeared in answer to a summons for having neglected to have his child vaccinated within the period specified by the Act of Parliament. This question came before the Kendal Board of Guardians in September last, when it was decided to allow Dr. Hall three months to reconsider his objection to having the operation performed, he having stated at length, in a letter to

the chairman, his reason for that objection. Dr. Hall admitted the charge, but asked the indulgence of the Bench while explaining his position. It was not to vaccination proper that he had so much objection. He believed that in some cases it was a preventive of small-pox; and, even after being fined, as he was aware he must be, if when the rinderpest was over he could be directed to a cow having the genuine pox, yet in all other respects healthy, he would get some of the lymph and have it applied. The Bench ordered the defendant to be fined 15s., the amount of the expenses.

THE PROPOSED METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITIES.—At a meeting of the St. Pancras Vestry on Wednesday, a communication from the Vestry of St. James, Westminster, was read, with a copy of Mr. Beal's resolution, for conferring municipal powers on the metropolitan boroughs, and abolishing the powers of the irresponsible magistracy as well as the Metropolitan Board of Works, and asking the co-operation of the vestry, by appointing delegates to a meeting of all the vestries and local boards to consider the question. Mr. Ross, in moving the appointment of five delegates from St. Pancras, highly approved of the project, and said the funds of the Corporation of London ought to be distributed over the whole metropolis. It was monstrous also that they had to raise funds, which were disbursed by an irresponsible magistracy and police commission over whom the ratepayers had no control. Mr. J. B. Collins seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously, and five delegates were appointed.

WORKING MEN'S CLUB IN SPITALFIELDS.—A handsome building, called the Bedford Institute (in memory of the late Peter Bedford), has recently been erected by members of the religious Society of Friends, in Wheeler-street, Spitalfields. The upper storey has been for some time used as a Sabbath-school and for other kindred purposes. The ground-floor was opened on the 18th inst. as a working men's club. A public meeting, presided over by B. Scott, Esq., Chamberlain of London, opened the proceedings. The chairman, and Messrs. Beck, Taylor, Stephens, Nicholls, and Hine, pointed out the advantages of these institutions for improving the condition of working men, and invited all present to co-operate in the present undertaking. After the meeting the club-rooms were opened, and about seventy members were at once enrolled. The architect of this really fine building is Mr. William Beck, of Finsbury-circus, who has given his professional services gratuitously, and has laboured most indefatigably for the success of the undertaking.

TRYING TO APPREHEND AN ELEPHANT.—On Monday week Messrs. Sanders' troupe left Manchester for Dundee about 1 and 2 o'clock. The elephant was ridden down Market-street by his keeper, and such an unwonted sight at such an hour of the morning so frightened some pedestrians returning from a party that they ran screaming into one of the side streets. This attracted the attention of a constable of the A division, who remonstrated with the keeper for riding the elephant in the street at such an hour. Some high words passed between them, when the constable sought to exercise his authority. But the elephant distinctly intimated his disapproval of such a proceeding, and the policeman narrowly escaped a blow from the animal's trunk. Nothing daunted, the policeman obtained the help of some brother constables, and they proceeded to the Victoria-station. The elephant and his keeper were by this time in the box about to start by the 3 a.m. train, and the police endeavoured to get at the keeper. He called "Charley, Charley," and the intelligent creature gave a loud roar, and struck at the police with his trunk, but, fortunately, missed them and made the side of box resound with the force of the blow. This convinced the police that the elephant was too much for them, and they retired discomfited.—*Manchester Guardian.*

REPRESENTATION OF BRECON.—A portion of the Liberal electors of this borough being dissatisfied with the expressed opinions of the Earl of Brecknock, Mr. Thomas Price, of Aberdare, has been induced to come forward. In his address he says, "I have waited with considerable interest, but hitherto in vain, hoping that a gentleman of local influence and of advanced Liberal principles would come forward to seek your suffrages; neither of the candidates now before the electors is prepared to advocate measures that would have had the hearty support of your late respected member; and firmly believing that neither of the addresses already issued contains a programme suitable to the wishes of the great majority of the independent electors of the borough of Brecon, or the wants of the period in which we live, I beg most respectfully to offer myself as a candidate for the honour of representing my native town in Parliament." After referring to various questions of public interest, he proceeds—"In ecclesiastical matters I am a Nonconformist, and believe that the religion of Christ was not intended by its Divine Founder to be allied with or to become an engine of the State, and that true religion would be greatly benefited by being freed from all state patronage and control. I would, therefore, while firmly maintaining vested rights, and duly respecting the interest of all living persons, and whilst cherishing the most cordial feeling of regard and respect towards the Episcopal Church, as one of the Christian communities of our land, gladly support a measure for the total emancipation of the Church from the State, firmly believing that this would prove an act of lasting blessing to the Episcopal Church itself, and a simple measure of justice to the other religious bodies of this kingdom. The Church-rate question will have the early attention of Parlia-

ment. The experience of the last fifteen years, and the futile efforts made to effect a compromise, have fully convinced me that the total and unconditional abolition of the tax is the only true and practical solution of the question; I should therefore vote for the total and immediate abolition of Church-rates. I should give my vote for any measure having for its object the opening of our national universities to the youth of the country, without respect to creed or party. I would do all in my power to promote a committee of inquiry into the working of the Established Church and endowed schools in Wales, with a view of ascertaining the amount of provision it has made, or is now making, for the spiritual wants of the people and the education of the children of the poor; the effect of appointing into high offices those who do not understand the language of the people; the evil of alienating the revenues of the Establishment from the poor churches in Wales for the purpose of the aggrandisement of richer churches elsewhere; and whether the Establishment in Wales has answered the purpose of its being, and if it has brought forth fruit commensurate with the large sums drawn by it from the taxes of the country. I should be fully prepared to do all in my power to co-operate with the leading men of the Principality in obtaining from the Government of the day a fair and equitable distribution of the educational grants for Wales to schools that are free and unsectarian. It is full time that the Nonconformists in the Principality should be fairly and honestly dealt with in the matter of education."

THE TRIAL OF SOUTHEY for the murder of his wife at Ramsgate was begun at Maidstone on Wednesday. The prisoner behaved in a strange manner. He was called Forwood in the indictment, but he insisted that his name was Southey. Then he refused for a long time to plead, arguing with the judge meanwhile. At last the case was opened, and proceeded for some time when the prisoner again interfered, and apparently wished to defend himself. His solicitor conferred with him on the subject, and the result was that Mr. Smith, the counsel retained for him, stated that the prisoner was not in a fit state of mind to know what he wished. Thereupon the jury were directed to try whether the prisoner was in a fit state mentally to take his trial. After some arguments, however, the trial was allowed to proceed, Mr. Smith still defending the prisoner, who frequently interrupted the witnesses. On Thursday the trial was resumed. The evidence was of considerable interest. Mr. Smith, for the defence, sought to prove that the prisoner was insane. The prison surgeon and other officials all expressed their opinion that he was perfectly sane. While the prison surgeon was being examined the prisoner several times shrieked out. For the defence three medical men were called, who all expressed opinions that the prisoner was insane. On some points, however, they differed. One of them said he did not think the prisoner comprehended the nature of the present proceedings, while another thought Southey knew perfectly well that he was being tried for murder. After a careful summing up the jury found the prisoner guilty, and he was sentenced to death.

THE CIVIL SERVICE.—The Civil Service Commissioners have issued their tenth report, and state that the total number of nominations for preliminary test examination has been 29,763. The annual average has been 3,185; those received in 1864 were 4,151. Of the candidates nominated for examination in Class 1 (those who aimed at superior situations, clerkships, &c.), 204 passed and 160 failed. On the average there were 3.1 competitors for each vacancy. This proportion is further reduced by the fact of the failure of many to pass the preliminary test examinations. This allowed for, the average was not more than 1.7 for each situation. The number of situations offered in competition was only 251 in this class. Of class 2, inferior situations (letter-carriers and the like), the men examined were not submitted to the test of competition. 2,384 nominations were dealt with, of which number 144 candidates did not appear; 1,931 obtained certificates, and 309 were refused on account of various disqualifications. Out of 771 persons who, on different grounds, have been pronounced disqualified during the year recently ended, only 6 can be said to owe their rejection to requirements of a "scholastic" or educational character. The results of the method of legal training adopted for the Civil Service, India, competitions are stated to be, considering the shortness of time given for it, highly satisfactory. The results of the system are reported on in a similar tone, as might be expected. Abundant statistics, a list of certificated persons, examination papers for Indian appointments, and a great deal of correspondence which it seems wasteful to print, make up an octavo volume of nearly 300 pages.—*Athenæum.*

THE BOARD OF WORKS AND LONDON IMPROVEMENTS.—The newly-published annual report of the Board takes a comprehensive survey of the work already accomplished, with some forecasts at what remains to be done. First and foremost stands, of course, the main drainage, which can now be described as "virtually completed." These enormous drains are eighty-two miles in aggregate length. As many as 318,000,000 bricks and 880,000 cubic yards of concrete were used in their construction, and nearly 4,000,000 cubic yards of earth were excavated as the works proceeded. The volume of sewage which the drains will intercept from the Thames daily amounts to about 14,000,000 cubic feet, but they have capacities for disposing on occasion of more than four times that quantity. Of course, such works are not executed except at heavy charge. When actually completed they will have cost some 4,200,000*l.* Next in order

is the Thames Embankment scheme, as to which, we are told, "considerable progress" has been made on the northern side, and that the contract for the southern portion has been let. The North Embankment, too, will be continued by a new street, seventy feet wide, running from Blackfriars-road to the Mansion House, and in this work the Board has been "actively engaged." Besides this, other new streets are in hand—Garrick-street, Covent-garden; Southwark-street; Bardett-road, between Mile-end-road and the East India Dock-road; and a thoroughfare between Commercial-road and Whitechapel. These streets, be it observed, in addition to other modern improvements, are all provided with subways for gas and water-pipes, and will therefore be models of convenient construction. As to uninhabited areas, the principal topic of the report is the proposed Finsbury-park, the arrangements for which have been delayed by various causes, but are at length to be proceeded with. Next year the Board will add to its previous duties the care of the new Metropolitan Fire Brigade.

MORE AMERICAN CORRESPONDENCE.—A further voluminous correspondence between Mr. Adams and the British Foreign Secretary is published in the *Gazette*. Mr. Adams expresses satisfaction with the prompt manner in which the British Government had handed over the Shenandoah to the United States authorities, but appears dissatisfied with the manner in which the crew had been allowed to disperse. Lord Clarendon replies that as no evidence had been supplied which would warrant a prosecution for piracy, and as the persons composing the crew all declared themselves to be foreigners, the Government could not interfere. Mr. Adams also complains of the manner in which the crew of the Alabama, after having been rescued by the Deerhound, were sheltered in England. The Foreign Secretary replies that it was for the United States war-vessel that sank the Alabama to prevent the Deerhound carrying off the crew, but that those persons having been landed on British soil were as much entitled to protection as Polish, Hungarian, or other political refugees. Mr. Adams replies at length to Earl Russell's last despatch upon the compensation question. He seeks to destroy the parallel which the Noble Earl attempted to draw between the present case and that of the Portuguese Government when it asked for and was refused compensation by the United States Government. He says that when the Portuguese Government represented that the municipal law of the United States was insufficient for the maintenance of neutrality, the United States made their laws more stringent; whereas, under similar circumstances, the British Government refused to take any action whatever. Earl Russell said that we could not go on making new laws *ad infinitum* as new occasions arise; and Mr. Adams replies very pertinently by asking what is the use of legislative bodies unless it be to make new laws *ad infinitum* when new occasions arise. The correspondence ends by Mr. Adams intimating that the United States Government declines the proposal of a joint commission with the limitations proposed by Earl Russell and by Lord Clarendon, saying that he cannot see any good results that can flow from a continuance of the controversy. The tone of the correspondence on both sides is very friendly.

AGES OF PUBLIC MEN.—The oldest duke is the Duke of Northumberland, aged 87; the youngest, the Duke of Norfolk, aged 18. The oldest marquis, the Marquis of Westminster, aged 80; the youngest, the Marquis of Ely, aged 16. The oldest earl, the Earl of Onslow, aged 88; the youngest, the Earl of Charleville, aged 13. The oldest viscount, Viscount Gough, aged 86; the youngest, Viscount Downe, aged 21. The oldest baron, Lord Brougham, aged 87; the youngest, Lord Rodney, aged 8. The oldest member of the Privy Council is Lord Brougham, aged 87; the youngest, his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, aged 24. The oldest member of the House of Commons is Sir William Verner, Bart., member for the county of Armagh, aged 83; the youngest, the Earl of Tyrone, member for Waterford, aged 21. The oldest judge in England is the Right Hon. Stephen Lushington, aged 83; the youngest, Sir James P. Wilde, aged 49. The oldest judge in Ireland, the Right Hon. Thomas Lefroy, Chief Justice of the Queen's Bench, aged 89; the youngest, Justice Keogh, aged 48. The oldest Scotch Lord of Session, the Right Hon. Duncan McNeill, Lord Justice General, aged 72; the youngest, David Mure, Lord Mure, aged 54. The oldest archbishop, the Archbishop of Canterbury, aged 71; the youngest, Archbishop of York, aged 46. The oldest bishop, the Bishop of Exeter, aged 88; the youngest, the Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol, aged 46. The oldest baronet, Sir Stephen L. Hammick, aged 88; youngest, Sir Henry Hayes Lawrence, aged one year. The oldest civil and military knight is General Sir Arthur B. Clifton, aged 93; youngest, Sir Charles T. Bright, aged 33.—*From Who's Who for 1866.*

LONDON MILK.—In the course of the controversy upon the subject of London milk, which took place at the last meeting of the Society of Arts, Dr. Voelcker, who may be regarded as our best authority, stated that London milk is decidedly inferior to that from the country. In London the cows have more food rich in fatty matter, which yields a milk richer in butter than that of the country. However, the article sold to the consumer is very different, one-third or one-half water, after the cream is taken off. For his own sake, he was sorry to say he did not believe in the alleged absence of adulteration in London milk, and he had analysed many specimens. The specific gravity test is, as a rule, a good one for the protection of the consumer.

Literature.

MR. MOON'S "ELIJAH."*

Mr. Moon is somewhat favourably known by a volume of verse on miscellaneous subjects. The pieces contained in it were marked by gentle, tender feeling, and kindly, sympathetic piety; but scarcely indicated the possession of poetic or creative power. And though there are some good verses in "Elijah," with much that still draws forth our esteem towards the author, we cannot conscientiously say that as an essay at treading the higher walks of poetry, it is in any considerable degree successful. As to the grandeur of the theme, there can be but one opinion. The sudden appearance of the Tishbite—without preparation or preamble—with his terrible message; the sublimity and yet tender pathos of his superhuman story—his translation, and symbolical significance as prefiguring the Messiah's forerunner—all combine to mark a subject of the very loftiest dignity. Very wonderfully and sympathetically has the gifted Mendelssohn caught the spirit of the marvellous narrative—from the first awe-inspiring appearance of the prophet before Ahab, to the glimpse afforded by the closing scene, of that realm where "the righteous shall shine as the sun." Perhaps, indeed, after Mendelssohn, it would be impossible to listen to any other "epic" of Elijah than that which at the very mention of his name fills our ear and imagination. And, perhaps, too, it would have been wiser if Mr. Moon had exercised the grace of self-restraint before a subject to the grandeur of which he has certainly shown himself not insensible. But we are anxious to do him justice; and we must try to give our readers a fair idea of the way in which he has handled his difficult subject.

First, then, after appropriate "Invocation" and "Introduction," the poem opens with a scene of revelry in Ahab's palace at Samaria. Like Nebuchadnezzar after him, though with less excuse, the King is pouring out his scorn for Jehovah and His worshippers. As he reaches the climax of his impiety, the word of the prophet thunders forth. God's judgments are denounced upon the guilty King, and the message of wrath concludes with the terrible sentence which "sealed the heavens." Ahab is only prevented from wreaking his vengeance on Elijah by a lightning stroke which hurls him speechless upon the ground—a prey to terrors which all too vividly image the final doom. In this opening scene Mr. Moon has used his invention more freely than in the remainder of his work. The feeding of the prophet first by ravens, and afterwards by the widow of Zarephath, the sacrifice on Mount Carmel, Elijah's flight into the wilderness, the murder of Naboth, and indeed the whole of the remaining history of the prophet, are related with little of the drapery of additional circumstance. We think it would have been better if Mr. Moon had in like manner restrained his fancy in the opening scene. The difference between the opening of the story of Elijah in the First Book of Kings, and that in Mr. Moon's poem, is, after all, the difference between drama and melodrama. In one place, Mr. Moon has ventured to suppress a characteristic feature in his narrative. In the actual history, Elijah, when about to raise the widow's son, "stretches 'himself seven times' upon the body of the child. Mr. Moon will not allow the prophet to do more than "place one hand on the clay-cold 'form," while the other is "raised to God in 'fervent prayer." This innovation is, in our judgment, quite unwarranted and unnecessary. But, with these and a few other slight deviations or additions, the story of Mr. Moon's "Epic" faithfully follows the original record; and, perhaps, to our young people, such a metrical version may not be without its value in awakening interest in one of the most impressive portions of the Old Testament.

But it is right that we should try to point out wherein it is that Mr. Moon has failed. In the first place, then, he often does little more than fritter away the simple grandeur of the original "prose epic" by lifeless expansion. Take, for example, the stirring speech of Elijah on Mount Carmel, "How long halt ye between two 'opinions? If Jehovah be God, follow him; 'but if Baal, follow him." Let us see what Mr. Moon makes of this specimen of nervous eloquence:—

"O Israel, wherefore bow ye 'neath the yoke
Of slavish indecision day by day?
Why do ye doubt whose aid ye should invoke?
If Baal be God, then serve ye him, I say;
But if Jehovah, then to Him your homage pay."
—P. 40.

* *Elijah the Prophet*. An Epic Poem. By G. WASHINGTON MOON, Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, Author of "The Dean's English." London: Hatchard and Co.]

Who will not be ready to say, if this be poetry, then in reason's name let us be content with prose? If we ask what Mr. Moon has effected, the answer is this—he has manufactured five lines of rhymed verse, and spun something like fifty words out of a dozen and a half. There is no new thought (unless it be the questionable comparison of "indecision" to a "yoke"), and no new force of expression gained by accumulation of words. In fact, Mr. Moon seems not to be aware that one peculiar advantage possessed by verse over prose lies in its power of closely-packed, concentrated expression. Some allowance will perhaps be claimed for rhyme; but we are little disposed to sacrifice any essential excellence of thought in language to what is after all a secondary source of pleasure. Or take again the following expansion of a thought which, as some of our readers will call to mind, has been before expressed in about a quarter the space:—

"Ah! did God give all we think we require
To make our mortal life supremely blest,
How often in that life it would transpire
That we were injured by our own request!
God is all-wise and good, and giveth what is best."
—P. 51.

To those who are familiar with the way in which the same thought has been set by one whose words are wont to be the fewest as well as the weightiest—

"So find we our profit
In losing of our prayers!"

How flat and poor must Mr. Moon's paraphrase appear! So with such a preamble as this:—

"And true it is, though strange it does appear."
—P. 30.

or such a periphrasis as "hybrids between horse 'and ass,' for mules (p. 36); or such platitudes as are contained in the rhapsody on "respect 'due to kings' (p. 48). We really can see no reason why such passages should be regarded as poetry at all. Poetry ever elevates; such treatment of a subject effects the very opposite.

—This leads us further to say, that Mr. Moon sometimes plunges into actual bathos. Lest we seem to bring a railing accusation, we adduce the following lines on the fate of Jezebel:—

"Then went he [Jehu] in to eat, but turned to say,
'That cursed woman, being a king's daughter,
See now and bury her.' They went their way,
But came back saying they in vain had sought her:
Of her who perished at that place of slaughter,
Skull, feet, and hands alone remained to tell
The fearful end to which her crimes had brought her."
—P. 130.

[The italics are ours.]

We had rather be excused comment on the above passage. We have only to add that Mr. Moon has, unwisely in our opinion, adopted the Spenserian stanza, but that he has introduced some novelties in the treatment of it. For specimens of such we may refer our readers to such a final line as the following:—

"At threats then we laugh, and joyously quaff the
deep-blushing rosy wine."
—P. 13.

and the strangely singular stanza which occupies the whole of p. 48, and exhibits almost every variety of metre.

We should strongly recommend Mr. Moon for the future either to confine himself to prose—which he can write with more than ordinary purity and clearness—or, if he will write verse, to choose a less ambitious theme.

"JERUSALEM AS IT IS."*

Still another book about the Holy Land! How often in these days of travel are we wanted to hurry off to Marseilles, take ship thence for Alexandria, make an entry into the Conqueror's city on back of donkey, thence by rail to Cairo, and off to the Pyramids, and, when Egypt has been "done" as becometh a tourist, reship ourselves at Alexandria, and over the sea to Jaffa! How often are we lured by some adventurous spirit's winning voice to attempt the weary, uphill march from that seaside where Simon the tanner lived to Jerusalem, and again from the Holy City, under the escort of some two or three savage-looking Bedouins, over the burning, sandy plain to the Jordan, to enjoy a cool plunge in its swift current as all true pilgrims should do, and then, further south, to look upon and wonder at the mysterious Dead Sea, and test the buoyancy of its sluggish waves, and pick up some memento from its salt-encrusted shores!

Often have we—sitting quietly in our study—walked about Zion, marked well her bulwarks, and told the towers thereof, and still we are not wearied. There is a charm that does not grow dim in everything pertaining to

"Those holy fields
Over whose acres walked those blessed feet,
Which eighteen hundred years ago, were nail'd
For our advantage, on the bitter cross."

* *Jerusalem as it is*. By ALBERT RHODES, United States Consul at Jerusalem, London: John Maxwell and Co.

The thousands of pilgrims from all parts of the earth that year by year actually visit Jerusalem, and the myriads of readers of the books which tell the thrice-told tale of Jerusalem as it was and as it is, attest that "Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is Mount 'Zion.'" We have not been disappointed in attaching ourselves to the retinue of the American Consul, and, with him, looking again upon the thousand-and-one sights of interest in David's city. As representative of a great Power, and possessing a sufficient supply of *bachshish*, the Turk, the Jew, the Greek, the Latin, and the Sheikh of the wandering tribes, have all done obeisance to him, and afforded him every facility for acquiring a complete knowledge of whatever he wished to inquire into. After much intercourse with the various peoples who have made Jerusalem their home, the impression produced on Mr. Rhodes' mind seems to us—though he has not distinctly stated it—to have been a disheartening one. The land is manifestly under God's curse, and the inhabitants, gathered from all climes, are in their second childhood. Manhood, honour, hope, are forgotten among them. They cringe, and fawn, and cheat, and lie,—for by this craft they have their wealth, what little of it they possess. Their serious business is like children's playing at work, and their devotion is superstition. The old "Sick Man" of Europe is their master, whose coffee-drinking, *chi bouque-smoking* soldiers are about the only signs of power to be found in the land. As a proof of the abject condition of the people, woman is degraded, and is content with her lot. A gentleman hearing a learned Jewess extolling the Rabbis, reminded her that they had dictated this prayer, to be offered by men—"Blessed 'art Thou, O Lord, King of the Universe, that 'Thou hast not created me a woman." To this the Jewess replied—"The Rabbis are assuredly right, for we poor women are but donkeys, and so is every woman in the world,—a poor, helpless creature, unfit for anything." Mr. Rhodes enters somewhat fully into a description of the several churches and sects that have their sanctuaries, monasteries, and convents within the walls of Jerusalem. First, there is the Latin Church, chiefly of the Franciscan order, lately under a Reverendissimo, now under the Patriarch, Joseph Valerga. Of the Latins there are 1,500, made up of Greek Catholics, Armenian Catholics, Syrian Catholics, a few Maronites, and the Catholics proper or Latins. The Greek Church, whose Patriarch always resides at Constantinople, is second in importance. In connection with the Greeks is the Russian Church, under an Archimandrite, who possess the finest modern building in Palestine. There are also among the Christian churches, the Syrian, the Armenian, the Coptic, the Abyssinian, besides the American and the Church of England; the first two having intercommunion, the main bond of their union being the Monophysite doctrine. The Jewish communities in Jerusalem, which number altogether about 8,000 members, are divided into the Spanish-Portuguese Jews and the Aachkenazim, which latter have six subdivisions. Almost all these Jews are supported by alms sent by their co-religionists in the various countries of Europe. Mr. Rhodes does not speak in flattering terms of the success of the English Mission in Jerusalem. Its handsome temple, which cost 14,000*l.*, is situated on one of the best sites in the city. The interior of the church is severely cold. In letters of gold, on tablets of black marble in the chancel, are inscribed the Ten Commandments in Hebrew. There is no memorial of Christ. The appearance of the bishop, rector, and curate in the chancel, their sermons—whose constant theme is the wrath of God—and the indifferent organ, are all in character with the sternness of the place. It would appear as if all this were to conciliate the Jews, but hitherto it has not been successful. The congregation usually numbers about fifty, half of whom are Jews. Since 1840, when the mission was established, about one hundred and fifty Jews have become members of the congregation. This is at the rate of six converts a year. The expense of the mission amounts to 5,000*l.* a year; so that each convert costs 833*l.* Regarding this unsatisfactory state of things Mr. Rhodes asks,—“Would it not be better to 'spend this money in a more promising field?'” He considers that with the same expenditure, ten conversions might be expected elsewhere for one in Jerusalem, the Jews there, from the fact of most of them having come from other countries to die in the Holy City, being the least likely to be susceptible to Christian influences. Of the many sacred buildings and religious observances the author gives a full account. Everything worthy of note he appears to have visited. Frequently he is perplexed as to what amount of credence is to be given to the traditions respecting the sites of buildings and places consecrated by their association with our Lord. As to the site of the Holy Sepulchre, he gives us a long discussion held at the dinner-table

between a French Abbé, who argues on historical grounds that the site of the present Church of the Holy Sepulchre is the true one; and a New Englander, who argues from topographical facts against him. The wild-frenzy of the crowds of pilgrims and devotees in this church on Easter-eve to light their tapers from the holy fire received, it is believed, miraculously from Heaven, Mr. Rhodes witnessed, and gives a very graphic description of. *Backshish* is the great moving power in the country, from the Sublime Porte to the donkey-boy. Thus the Church of the Virgin has several times changed owners, at one time the Latins holding it, at another, the Greeks; the transfer being in each case authorised by a solemn *firman* from the Porte, the convincing argument in the obtaining of which being *backshish*. Excessive greed expresses itself in almost every transaction. The Turks compelled the miserable Jews to pay 30,000 piastres for the privilege of wailing outside the old Temple wall, where they meet in great numbers every Friday afternoon, and bewail their glory gone in bitter lamentations, whose burden is, "O Lord, how long! Wilt Thou be angry with us for ever?" Sir Moses Montefiore, in visiting the country, having given a large amount of money to the poor, in his generosity forgot himself, and gave away even the sum required for his travelling expenses home. Wishing to borrow the needful amount, a Jew, who as a poor mendicant had received of the bounty of Sir Moses, produced a large sum and offered to lend it for a *consideration*. Strolling in a bazaar one day, Mr. Rhodes was amused in overhearing the conducting of a bargain for a piece of cloth by the owner and a woman, he, with much gasconade, asking 150 piastres the piece, she, with the coolest indifference, offering ten: the bargain was at last concluded at fifty piastres.

To give an idea of the motley character of the dwellers in Jerusalem, we copy the following picture:—

"The liveliest scene about Jerusalem is without the Jaffa Gate—the principal doorway into the city. Here can be seen, on almost every evening in pilgrim season, most of the nationalities of the world: the handsome Greek, in prettiest of oriental costumes; the Wallachian, who has partially adopted the dress of the European; the square-faced, long, tawny-haired, loutish Russian, muffled up as if he were in Siberia instead of the warm climate of Palestine; the Persian, wearing no particular expression in his face, and a kind of chimney-pot on his head; the wild, stalwart-looking Armenian, from Zeitoun, with his goat-skin thrown over his shoulder; the brown Copt, clad in his indigo-dyed blue; the black Abyssinian, in his poverty, clothed in whatever he can get; the graceful Georgian, a picture of masculine beauty; the Frank, in angularly-bifurcated pantaloons and straight-lined coat; the humble, dirty, cowering Jew, with his two long front locks dangling under an impossible hat; the grave Mohammedan, in turban of spotless white, and flowing robe; the noisy, gesticulating fellah, turban-covered and bare-legged; the dark Bedawee, in picturesque but seedy finery, with a touch of the hidalgo-bravado in his manner, and a sort of decayed grandeur about him; even a John Chinaman may be seen among the crowd, as a follower of Mohammed, making a pilgrimage to El Khuda, the second Mecca. There is a variety of animals usually about the gate, as well as of people: camels, horses, mules, and donkeys."

Mr. Rhodes has written with much discrimination and feeling. In visiting any scene associated with our Lord's presence, spite of confusing tradition and bewildering legend, spite, too, of the often-fancied surroundings of superstition, he has felt that he stood on holy ground, and has reverently recalled the words of Jesus or of the Evangelist which the scene suggested. We shall, however, best express the author's mental attitude with respect to the peculiar scenes and influences surrounding him by quoting from his description of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre:—

"A small staircase to the right leads into another chapel, which is not within the church, but alongside of Calvary. It is called Notre Dame des Douleurs, and its barred window looks in upon the supposed ground of the Crucifixion. Tradition says that the Virgin Mother, with St. John and several saintly women, stood here while the cruel drama was enacted before them. How one longs to believe all this! How one wishes it might be true, as one recalls the thrilling music of the *Stabat Mater Dolorosa*! But the stern monitor, Reason, admonishes us that we are in the land of wild and conflicting traditions, and that we must not let our feelings obscure our judgment."

As many men, many minds; so, we suppose, many travellers, many spellings of foreign words. Mr. Rhodes thus dresses our old Oriental friends:—The *Khaliph* gives *backshish* to the *Bedawee*, and the *Moazzin* calls the *Muslim* to prayer.

REV. ARTHUR MURSELL'S SERMONS.*

Some readers, we are told, never think of looking in to the preface of a book. For ourselves, we confess that both curiosity and a sense of what is due to an author, ever draw us thither

when a new volume is put into our hands. If the book have any special aim or characteristic, it is likely to be indicated there; and the knowledge of this may materially aid us in its study. Mr. Arthur Mursell desires to detain the readers of his volume for a moment or two with an explanation of its occasion and design. As we shall have a good deal of fault to find with these discourses, we prefer to let him speak for himself:—

"It is to some extent a personal motive which has induced the publication of this volume of sermons. The writer's name having become associated with a published series of very mixed and rough addresses to a section of the labouring inhabitants of our large cities, who were presumed to have little sympathy with the common means of spiritual teaching; and the impression having been, unintentionally or purposely, spread that these were 'sermons' delivered in the regular course of ministrations, he was anxious to do something to remove that idea. He is not at all ashamed of those publications as 'addresses to working people,' designedly framed to arrest the most frivolous, and to press social as well as spiritual reformation upon the attention of the poor. But as sermons preached to a Christian church, in a place of worship, he would be ashamed of them, and as such he disowns them."

Mr. Mursell hopes that while his volume will prove generally useful, it will be accepted as a selection from his ordinary ministerial addresses, and will correct the injurious idea that he "imports into the solemn exercises of the house of God a wholesale secular element, and a frequent licence and liberty of illustration unworthy of the sphere and the occasion."

We do not wonder at this solicitude to set himself right with the public if former indiscretions have done him damage. Deeply do we regret that Christian men have ever sought the good of any class by vulgar and offensive presentation of Divine truth. A graver error can hardly be committed. The applause of the hour is purchased at far too heavy a price. Truth is dishonoured, and the understanding and conscience of the very classes avowedly aimed at are insulted, by "licence and levity." God's message to man is so broad, deep, and loving that its simplest statement is its best commendation to any heart. This volume, however, is intended as an antidote where these "addresses" have been confounded with "sermons." And such intention challenges a notice of them which it were unfaithful in us as friendly critics to Mr. Mursell, and as honest critics to the public, not to give.

From the preface we were led to anticipate a thoughtful, chaste, and reverential handling of the Word of God. Dull sermons we certainly did not expect from so popular a man, nor have we to complain of dullness. Elaborate exegesis we did not expect, for this is not the forte of such a man as we believe Mr. Mursell to be. Earnestness of spirit we looked for, and this we have in every discourse. But we expected that whatever were the defects or excellencies of the volume, we should find it pervaded by a plain statement of the more obvious and fundamental aspects of truth, and by a jealous avoidance of every epithet and illustration which propriety and reverence must condemn. We expected, too, that not a few proofs would be given here and there of the joyous awe with which the most sacred verities of our faith affect the heart that deeply entertains them. We did not expect a very large profusion of unintelligible rhapsodies, of extravagant and vulgar imagery and description.

Herein we have been much disappointed. That Mr. Mursell can do well, if he will, is evident from some parts of his book. We refer to the whole sermon entitled, "A Plea with the Young," which is earnest, devout, and affectionate. We refer to the first part of his discourse on "Faith not Ritualism," the discrimination in which is admirable. And we might refer to others, or at any rate to parts of them, with like hearty commendation. But we must, and we do, utterly condemn very much that Mr. Mursell luxuriates in. We believe he has incurred the grievous penalty of depraving his own taste, and blunting his own sensibilities by the "licence and liberty" he has allowed himself in his teaching of Christian doctrine and duty. His book abounds in elaborated descriptions that shock our sense, and taste, and piety in equal measure. We have the painful impression that unless he will at once and resolutely free himself from the spirit that could suffer such things, he will fatally damage the ministry of his life. He is a man, we are sure, capable of much needed service in these days, and it is our solicitude for this that constrains us to expostulate with him. Excitement may betray a speaker into extravagance, and imperfect preparation into incoherence; but the pulpit is one thing and the press another. Such faults may occasionally find a place in a book, but if they largely characterise it, the book must be condemned. And we can write no excuse whatever for pulpit or press in defence of low and degrading pictures of Divine truth. We must not be supposed hasty in these censures: we have

read some sixteen of these nineteen discourses, and as the volume now lies before us, we see our marks for quotation are spread over its entire extent. Our space will not suffer the production of half the passages that would unhappily sustain our criticism: but we give a few. Speaking of the gifts which Jehovah bestowed on men in the earlier dispensations, Mr. Mursell says, (correctly, we think) that these were given in anticipation of the sacrifice of Christ. But he dwells on that idea for some pages, in a most revolting way. "It" (justice) "paid in advance"—so to speak—on the credit of Jesus Christ, "the blessings which were purchased for men by His substitutionary death. And in proportion as the great day—when the outstanding account was to be receipted in the Redeemer's blood—drew nearer and more definite, were these instalments conceded with greater freedom, and more copious liberality." He speaks of the present generations as "subsisting, so to speak, upon the exhaustless capital which our Redeemer has invested on our behalf." Our blessings "are not ordered, as it were, upon the credit of a future payment, but already obtained and paid for at a countless price. Christ, when He rose, obtained, on our behalf, 'the services of an agent,' &c. In this sermon we have also such expressions as these—"It is impossible that infinite wisdom can be baffled or brought to bay," &c. "It would have looked as though He (God) were juggling with His own works—making a football of the globe and a puppet of mankind," &c. "But the Christian never can grow bankrupt, he has a rich heritage which eager graspants cannot touch, which no man gave, and no man dares to take away; a merchandise which is never at a discount, which he will never have to sell at sacrifice, &c. In the sermon on "the figure of Him that was to come"—we light on these descriptions—"Paradise was inadequate to appease the need of 'the first man, and bring him rest, till woman was created. In vain the soft winds sighed their lullabies; in vain the streamlets rilled their liquid sound; in vain the birds sang sonnets from the sky, and trilled in trees, and carolled in the clouds; in vain the fragrance of a thousand flowers mellowed every breeze, and the juices of ripe clusters pointed near his wanton hand; the arm tossed restlessly till it twined around the neck of Eve, and the effluence of Paradise was pale till it was focalised through woman's eyes." "One" (the first Adam) "is the sexton who digs graves"; the other (Christ) "is the resurrectionist who rebukes those graves, &c." "Such was the darkness into which the Saviour dived; such the *Cimmeria* in which the dead Redeemer lay. But He took wings with Him to that dark abode—wings dipped in immortality; and when he shook those wings on rising, the flakes of radiance fell from them, and left light even in that deathly cave. Look into the tomb since Jesus lay within it, and what is it! It may look shady and chill to the natural eye, but let faith fasten her gaze upon it, and it is no longer a cavern unrelieved by light, but a sort of tunnel with a blazing glory streaming from the further end." In the discourse on "Remorse and Suicide," many impressive truths are urged, but Mr. Mursell seems to us to misconceive the character of Judas, and so to lose much instruction he might have given, and the discourse adds to the blemishes of the book in such descriptions as the following—"We reverence the silvery beard" (of Peter) "which wagged in noble indignation at the cold and taunting Pharisees." "He was not so daintily chary of his cloth but that he could afford to have play for the impetuous beating of his warm heart below it." "Innocent blood? But did he know that it was the only innocent blood which ever flowed through human veins. Did he think that the innocency of that blood goldened it into a currency whereby a bankrupt world's great debt was to be paid, and that by betraying it, he was letting loose a tide on which the drifting spars of shipwrecked immortality could be floated in to the celestial port." He "listened to Him while He (Christ) chatted in the cottages." "The Tearless Heaven" is a most elaborate discourse, but it opens with an utterly incorrect description of the object of the Book of Revelation, as intended "to supply some kind of idea to mankind of heaven, and a future state, so far materialised as to give the highest possible notion which our capacities could form of happiness and grandeur"; and it pursues this most mistaken conception in a page or two of extravagant and incomprehensible description. "Fields of light, flowers of radiance, floods of glory open in intense perspective; and there, as the bosom and the core of all, is the king in his beauty," &c. There too we have this hideous representation of the words, "There shall be no more death," "The lank-jawed skull shall never grin through the portals of the city of the glorified. The bony finger

* *Calls to the Cross: being Practical Discourses preached to a City Congregation.* By ARTHUR MURSELL. London: Elliot Stock, 1865.

"shall not beckon to the spirits of the just; the scythe shall have no power on the souls that throb in deathless vigour there. The monster, &c., &c." We forbear to pen the revolting minutiae in which Mr. Mursell seems to delight. And we forbear to multiply quotation further: only one more shall we give—this is from a copious outline on "The Mystery of Godliness," in which the preacher misses altogether the characteristic New Testament use of the term mystery. In illustration of the statement that "no human wisdom could ever have devised the scheme of redemption," we read, "It is a gem of grace dug from the deepest mine of the Divine intelligence, and lifted from the profoundest recess of the Divine compassion. Even when propounded, the scheme was so amazing in the graciousness of its theory, and so hugely merciful in the drama of its working out, that men could not understand it. Their comprehension had no girth for its colossal span. And hiding in the dim lair of their own folly, men laughed at it because it overtopped the trumpery tiptoe of their little minds."

It has been no pleasure to us to adduce these passages, or to pen this criticism. But it will be a great satisfaction if we hereafter are called to notice a book of Mr. Mursell's in which he does himself justice.

BRIEF NOTICES.

The Voice of Christian Life in Song. By the Author of "Chronicles of the Schönberg-Cotta Family," &c. Second Edition. (Nisbet and Co.) This work has already obtained its secure place, and a second edition needs but to be mentioned to our readers in general. If there should, however, be any to whom it is not known, we may say that it is the best work hitherto produced on the hymns and hymn-writers of the Christian church, from the earliest times down to the days of Ken and Doddridge. The object of the translator has been historical rather than literary; and it has been attempted to represent the creed of the hymn-writers of different ages, in illustration of the unity of faith which binds one age to another; and to reproduce the thoughts and images peculiar to different peoples and generations. We think it a great advantage to our English Christian people to have the hymns of the Oriental Church, of the great Greek and Latin writers, and of the mediæval times, thus faithfully set before them; and, besides the valuable assistance to Christian culture thus afforded, there is no little real gain to Catholic feeling from converse with the expression of the faith and pious feeling of past ages. The historical and biographical materials have been very carefully collected, and most intelligently employed; and the translations, which are chiefly new, are both happily conformed to the modes of thought and expression of the originals, and suited to the production of delight and edification to the English reader. It may be expected that the author owes much to Daniel's "Thesaurus," and to More's "Hymni Latini"; and the materials for German hymnology could hardly be far to seek. From a literary point of view we could have wished more complete representation of the sacred songs of the past ages of the Church; but for the excitement of a popular religious feeling, penetrated by a general intelligence, there could hardly have been a wiser and more genial illustration of the hymnology of all preceding generations of the Christian people of many lands.

The Divine Love; a Series of Doctrinal, Practical, and Experimental Discourses. By JOHN EADIE, D.D., LL.D., &c. Second Edition. (Olliphant and Co.) Ten years have passed since the former edition of this work appeared, and since then Dr. Eadie has commended himself, in various ways, to the universal church as a Biblical scholar, in the truest sense, and, at the same time, a most effective popular instructor. The discourses contained in this volume, prepared originally for ordinary readers in the domestic circle, and especially for those spending the Lord's-day evening at home, have been carefully revised, in the hope that they may yet be of service in promoting the zeal and devotion which a large sense of the sphere and operations of Divine love should inspire. With the theological complexion of the work as a whole we sympathise cordially, while dissenting as to particular representations (e.g., as to "the adopting love of the Father"); and we think its twelve discourses well fitted to promote the growth in knowledge and fruitfulness in works of love of those by whom they are devoutly perused.

Memoirs of the Life, Character, and Writings of the Rev. Matthew Henry. By Sir JOHN BICKERTON WILLIAMS, F.S.A. New Edition. (W. Tegg.) There is nothing whatever to be said of this book at the present date, except that what the late Sir J. Bickerton Williams published nearly forty years ago is as interesting to Christian readers, and as closely related to the Biblical study and pious life of Christian people at large, at this present moment, as when he first issued the rich and pleasant and most profitable fruits of his diligent and sympathetic researches into the life and times of our greatest English commentator on the Scrip-

tures. Matthew Henry is still incomparable, amongst the expositors who speak to English readers only:—he anticipates, by instinct, or rather by living participation of "the mind of the Spirit," some of the most subtle and profound results of scholarly inquiry; and those who are familiar with him turn to Adam Clarke or to Scott, only to find how pretentious and pedantic is the one, and how feeble and unsatisfactory the other. The late Sir J. B. Williams reached the most thorough penetration of the character and genius of Henry, and has written a Life of him which will never be supplanted while Henry himself is read by English Christians.

The Mystery of the Soul: a Search into Man's Origin, Nature, and Destiny. By S. W. FULFOM, Royal Hanoverian Gold-Medallist for Art and Science, author of the "Life of Sir Howard Douglas," &c., &c. (London: Charles J. Skeet.) We anticipated being led in this book over the bounds of space and time into that mysterious region "which no fowl knoweth and which the vulture's eye hath not seen," and being regaled with high discourse upon problems—at once so interesting and so insoluble—of the soul's nature and powers and destiny. Though in this anticipation we are disappointed, we have had interest in looking upon the bird's-eye view presented to us of many things relative to man's natural history and his position on the earth. Mr. Fulfom has apparently seen much of nature and of man in various parts of the world, and has entered with zeal into the many inquiries which have these for their subject; but in so doing he has not followed in the wake of any man or school; he has preferred to form his own opinions and express them in his own way. Mr. Fulfom is a firm believer in Revelation, though he objects to Dr. Pusey's fencing-in of Scripture from all scientific discussion; and while he shows the untenableness of many of the positions assumed by those who argue for the high antiquity of man, he expresses his belief that the hypothesis of there having been men upon the earth before the usually received date of Adam's creation, is not contrary but according to Scripture. He holds that "we find mention of two creations of man"—one at the beginning of the sixth period, and one at "its close, when man underwent a change. I conceive the last fact to be asserted in the word which we render as 'became.'" What the human creature was—if human he were—before he "became a living soul" we are left to conjecture. Genesis ii. 5, the author considers may signify either that the pre-Adamite race had become extinct, or that it was unacquainted with agriculture; he inclines to the latter interpretation. To this, to our astonishment, is added, "Indeed, the term which we here render 'there was' is so doubtful that the translators mark it by italics." We thought everyone knew that italics were used in our translation of the Bible to indicate that there were no corresponding words in the original languages to those thus pointed, and that these were inserted simply to complete the English sentence. If Mr. Fulfom will turn to his Hebrew Bible he will find there is no corresponding word to the "there was" in ours. The author, too, speaks unadvisedly, to say the least, when he says, without any comment, as if the incident were generally so received, that "Joshua 'availed himself of the occurrence of a solar phenomenon' to inspire the Hebrews, creating an impression that 'he compelled the sun to stand still.'" The following criticism of Hamlet's, "To die—to sleep—to sleep! perchance to dream," is, we should say, quite unique. "Hamlet preceded the discovery of the circulation of the blood; therefore he was ignorant of the dependence of dreams on the passage of blood through the vessels of the brain, and the consequent stagnation of the brain 'by death.'" This book is likely to stimulate to further inquiry, rather than to satisfy the reader; it takes up many questions of great moment, and presents them in that interesting way which independent thinking is sure to produce.

The Christian "Brave"; or, Some Remarkable Passages from the Life of Mr. A. Roberts, of Connecticut, U.S., Illustrative of Faith, Charity, and Self-Denial. Edited by the Rev. T. SEAVILL. (London: Elliot Stock.) Mr. Roberts was a very remarkable man, whose truly heroic deeds deserve to be chronicled. From the time of his conversion he devoted himself to going about doing good. A flourishing farm and all worldly prospects he gave up that he might be free to go wherever duty should seem to call. He entered a workhouse as a pauper that he might be able to talk to the paupers there. He spent a long time among the Pawnee Indians, who at first, because he refused to fight, called him a "woman," but afterwards, for his fearlessness and endurance, honoured him with the title of "The Christian Brave." Among the medley from all nations at the Californian digging, he laboured with considerable success; England he visited; and soon afterwards, having an earnest desire to do something for the heathen at Rome, he visited the Imperial City, but, his errand being quickly suspected, he found he could not leave his lodgings without having his foot-steps dogged by a soldier or a priest. He went, therefore, to Malta, where he could, without interference, meet with Italian sailors, to whom his simple services of love were greatly blessed. The last accounts of Mr. Roberts were from Constantinople; since then, ten years have passed, and no tidings of him have been received, so that it may be concluded his Apostolic labours have ended and he has entered into his rest. Truly a "Christian Brave" was this saintly, self-denying man!

Memoir and Remains of the Rev. R. M. M'Cheyne. Abridged from the Larger Work. (W. Olliphant and Co.) The Memoirs of M'Cheyne are far too well known for it to be needful for us to say more of an abridgement of them, than that such abridgement has been attempted, and well performed. Indeed, we shall frankly say that, for ourselves, we prefer the abridgement to the original and fuller work; of which we were never able to think so highly, or of its subject with such overflowing admiration, as some of our contemporaries. There is something sickly and miserable all through M'Cheyne's life; and its self-consciousness and morbid analysis, quite innocently taking on the forms of humility and truthfulness before God, have, within our own certain knowledge, made painful and injurious impressions on honest and frank-hearted religious inquirers. We should be sorry to hear from the pulpit such theology or such practical exhortation as are contained in the sermons he preached; and do not recommend anybody to read them:—and we cannot enjoy his verses in general, either as poetry or as piety. And yet we reverence and love M'Cheyne,—and yield to none in appreciation of the genuineness and sanctity of his character. But we will never consent to be silent whenever the best-hearted men produce testimonies from "a little girl about three years old, who had been crying the whole night long 'about her soul,' or from any 'Amelia Geddie' in the world, who, surveying her new white frock and red ribbons, remarks, 'I will never think myself trim and clean until I have the fine white robes of my Redeemer's righteousness put upon me.' And when such things as these are addressed to 'a young boy 'anxious about his soul,' we are compelled by all our deepest faiths and most devout feelings to say—this is all conventional, and false, and wretchedly degrading, utterly dishonouring to our Father-God, and utterly untrue to the nature of a child. Well, M'Cheyne knows better now; and God has forgiven him that he, so arbitrarily, narrowly, and injuriously, made God in his own image.

The Hebrew Scriptures. Translated by SAMUEL SHARPE. Vol. II. Samuel to Psalms. (Whitfield, Green, and Son.) This revision of the authorised version has, as we intimated of the first volume, all the marks of true learning and minute carefulness. But the objections formerly taken by us have lost none of their force to our own minds; and, while we never omit to preserve for ourselves whatever Mr. Sharpe—always one of the most conscientious and reverent of literary workers—may issue from the press, we are sorry to be unable to recommend his revised version of the Scriptures to any persons who are not able to judge him and to correct him independently. Yet there is real serviceableness and unperishing worth in this version; to the production of which there has certainly been brought no less maturity and mental honesty than scholarly accomplishment.

How we are Governed. By ALBANY FONBLANQUE, Jun. Revised to the present date by W. A. HOLDSWORTH. Popular Edition. (F. Warne and Co.) We have not attempted to compare the present with the former edition; but have the impression that the revision it has received is not considerable, and was not required to be considerable. We once more heartily and unreservedly commend to our readers, especially to young men who would be qualified, as all young men ought to be, for an intelligent appreciation of public affairs, and for an ordinary citizen's part in public life, these thoroughly well-informed and condensed chapters on the British Constitution, Parliament, Law, the Army and Navy, the National Debt, and Social Government. We have some reserves, as might be expected, as to the chapter on "the Church."

FOR THE YOUNG.

Naomi; or, the Last Days of Jerusalem. By Mrs. J. B. WEBB. New Edition. (Virtue, Brothers, and Co.) We have not a word now to say of Mrs. Webb's well-known and deservedly popular work on "The Last Days of Jerusalem," which we have always been able to admire though we do not share all her opinions and expectations. Five years ago it was the seventeenth edition of her book to which the authoress prefixed some new preparatory remarks; and, as the interest of such a work is not soon subject to the influence of changed times and tastes, we do not see why it should not re-appear in seventeen editions more. At any rate, here is an edition which deserves to be the permanent form of such a popular historical story. It has numerous landscape illustrations, on steel and wood, after Bartlett—whose exquisite works on sacred and classical lands were originally given to the world by Mr. Virtue's firm; and appropriate and pleasing historical designs, by our great book-illustrator John Gilbert.

The Fairy Tales of Science, A Book for Youth. By J. C. BROUGH. With Sixteen Illustrations by O. H. Bennett. (Griffith and Farran.) To divest the leading to more important branches of science of their hard and dry technicalities, and to present a compendium of their facts and ascertained truths in the garb of fairy tales for the young, was certainly a bold adventure, not easily to be accomplished; but by Mr Brough so conceived, so dared, and so performed, that no one who appreciates the originality of his work and the extent of his labour will address to him other words than those of grateful pleasure and warm congratulation. It is not, however,

a mere book of fun, nor simply an entertaining work on science, that he has produced. It is a book that requires thoughtful young readers; and that even the best disposed towards it may sometimes think dull. It is, however, worthy to be in every boy's library; and the information of the original edition (published seven years ago) is brought down to the results of the latest investigations in each branch of science that is discoursed of. Mr. Bennett's pictures are of course most charmingly humorous, and intellectually suggestive, while their first aspect is that only of the most grotesque absurdity.

The Children's Prize. Edited by J. ERSKINE CLARKE, M.A. Completed Volume for 1865. (W. Macintosh.)—The best of the penny monthlies of its class; and attaining a wonderful excellence in its illustrations, which are such as really to educate the taste of children, while its well-written articles, and papers of information, and pleasing verse, have perfect fitness to the mind and heart of childhood. It is seldom that religious truths, communicated to the extent of childhood's capacity only, are more naturally and simply presented than in some of these stories and anecdotes.

The Cottager and Artisan for 1865 (Religious Tract Society), has once more our entirely unreserved and earnest commendation to readers of the classes from which it takes its title. We have found it to be as much enjoyed and prized in the cottages of agricultural labourers, as in the homes of mechanics, and the lodging places of factory "hands."

The Christian Witness, 1865. Edited by the Rev. JOHN KENNEDY, M.A. (John Snow.) We have several times in the course of the year taken occasion to express our satisfaction with the improvements effected by Mr. Kennedy in the "Christian Witness"; and in now looking over the completed volume, we are very glad to congratulate him on the production of a periodical of which his denomination has no need to be ashamed, and which need never be discarded from the family shelves as "only an old magazine." Congregationalists will certainly suffer no dishonour by this being regarded as their popular representative; and they will do well so to encourage the editor by their support as to make it worth while and possible to secure the assistance of the best writers connected with "the body." Considering that there is a Congregational penny magazine for the working classes and Sunday-schools, it might prove an advantage to the *Witness* to give, even at its present low price, some dozen pages of each number with a truly high literary character; in which great theological questions and the ecclesiastical topics of the day might be discussed in a large-minded manner by the most competent writers, and the education of denominational opinion be thereby greatly promoted. We decidedly think that such a magazine should not become merely amusing and gossip;—it had better not attempt to rival "Chambers," "Household Words," "Once a Week," or "Good Words." Let it profess itself, thoroughly, and with the highest intelligence, do its own especial work, as a religious and Congregational serial. There is then not only room for it, but great need for it; and it will best vindicate its right to exist, and most usefully serve the interests it represents, by maintaining a distinctive character, and never losing itself in the conventional generalities of universal magazines. With these words we heartily commend it for the new year to the sympathy and support of all our Congregational readers.

Rescued from Egypt. By A. L. O. E. (London: Thomas Nelson and Sons.) "A. L. O. E." has a remarkable power of interesting the minds of the young in subjects generally supposed to be unsuited to their taste or capacity. With her fiction is a vehicle for communicating information or for enforcing some great practical lessons which are so ingeniously interwoven with her stories that they can hardly fail to attract and impress. Both of her books for the present season are capital. "Rescued from Egypt" is a tale in which she has treated the life of Moses in the same way as she dealt with the story of Daniel and the Hebrew youths in a former work. The hero, Arthur Madden, is one of four young people who are parties to a lawsuit relative to a disputed will by whose provisions, could its validity be sustained, they would come into the possession of large property. Unexpectedly the youth has come across an old letter which, were it known to the parties on the opposite side, would destroy the hopes of himself and his family, and for a time he was perplexed and troubled as to the course which he ought to pursue. The spiritual influence of some cottage lectures on the "Life of Moses," in quickening his conscience, strengthening his resolve to do the right at every cost, preparing him to overcome the bitter opposition which he had to encounter from his own sisters and brother, and arousing him to consecrate his talents to some high and noble work, is very skilfully developed. The lectures themselves are sometimes a little too long, and might with advantage have been made less hortatory and more didactic and illustrative in style, but the writer has got hold of the true idea of the narrative and of the practical use to which it should be turned, in the application of its great principles to the common events of daily life. The story is very well told, and with the exception of the romantic incidents at the close, extremely natural. It is very pleasant certainly for Arthur to find his virtue so richly rewarded; but this is not the universal or even the general course of Providence, and we would rather that our young people were taught in such works as these, not so much that virtue is

the best policy as the infinitely higher and more necessary lesson that the blessing of a good conscience, as it is the highest, so is it often the only, reward that follows right doing in this world.

Fairy Know-a-Bit: or, a Nut-shell of Knowledge. By A. L. O. E. (London: Thomas Nelson and Sons.) "Fairy Know-a-bit" is a similar effort, and a very successful one, to combine scientific information with the story of a child's early difficulties and trials. The fairy is a wonderful little creature, who, being a perfect encyclopedia of knowledge himself, very kindly undertakes, on certain conditions, to disclose some of his marvellous treasures to a little boy, who, being as selfish and impatient as he was uninstructed, required moral as much as intellectual discipline. Our little readers must find out for themselves the way in which the two-fold process was carried on, the rebuffs and corrections which the young learner had to receive, and the way in which he was led to understand the great lesson of the book, that self-knowledge is the most precious of all wisdom, and self-conquest the grandest of all victories. Of course, as a fairy tale, we are prepared to find the story a little fantastic and unreal, but it is entitled to high praise for the art with which it is constructed, and never certainly were the traditions of Fairydom turned to more practical purpose.

The Lighthouse. Being the Story of a Great Fight between Man and the Sea. By R. M. BALLANTYNE. With Illustrations. (London: T. Nisbet and Co.) Mr. Ballantyne's sea stories are just the kind of books which boys thoroughly enjoy. They are written with great spirit, are full of dashing adventure, and are well calculated to foster that heroic daring and dauntless courage which have secured for us our maritime supremacy. The story before us relates the tale of the erection of the Bell Rock Lighthouse, on a spot known to the students of our ballad literature by the old story of the Inchcape Bell. The difficulties of the work, which appear to have been sufficiently formidable, and to have tested the powers both of physical and moral endurance in the workers to the utmost, are described in lively and graphic style, and the stirring incidents of this great fight between man and the ocean must excite the interest and stir the blood even of the most sluggish and apathetic amongst youthful readers. But it is not to these alone that the writer has trusted for the interest of his book, for closely connected with this narrative of the erection of the lighthouse, is a tale of a seaman's adventures, in the course of which we are introduced to scenes of lawless violence on the one hand, and skilful daring on the other, and make the acquaintance of reckless smugglers and pressgang-men, and some jolly old English tars, and become familiar with all sorts of moving accidents both by land and sea. Throughout the whole there is preserved a high moral tone, which makes the book thoroughly healthful in its influence. It cannot fail to prove a great favourite with the class for whom it is designed.

Alypius of Tagaste: a Tale of the Early Church. By Mrs. WEBB. (London: The Religious Tract Society.) The early history of the Church is so little known beyond a very limited circle, that we heartily welcome any attempt to instruct the young about some of its great characters and incidents. It is especially rich in materials, which, in the hands of a skilful artist, might be made to yield great results, and we cannot understand why they should remain unemployed. Why should we not have tales of Christian heroes as attractive, as exciting, and as popular as Mr. Kingsley's stories of the Grecian heroes. To the great majority of our young people hardly the names of the illustrious men of the Early Church are known; while as to the main features of their character, the events of their lives, and the distinctive nature of their work, it is rarely indeed that we find anything but the most absolute ignorance. Mrs. Webb has in a tale before us done a work in which we trust she will find many imitators. Her story is designed to bring out some of the salient points in the early history of Augustine, who, in conjunction with his mother Monica and his friend Alypius, forms a group in which the interest of the story centres. Our authoress has been extremely careful to restrict the element of fiction as far as possible, and she has certainly succeeded in presenting an admirable picture of the manners and customs of the period in which the tale is laid, as well as of some of the more distinguished actors. We heartily trust that the book will have the effect of inducing her readers to study more closely the Church annals of the time, and that we shall have many more such efforts to attract the young to a subject which has generally been so strangely neglected.

Almeria's Castle: or, My Early Life in India and England. By Lady LUSHINGTON. (London: Griffith and Farran.) A capital story, admirably told. Our juvenile friends would not thank us if we were to spoil their pleasure by detailing its leading incidents. Suffice it to say, that in the variety of scene and character, in the freshness that is given by its pictures of Indian life, and in its simple but well-constructed plot, it is well fitted to sustain the interest of the reader throughout.

POCKET-BOOKS, &c.

We wish that we had been able to say somewhat earlier that we have received with pleasure *Gutch's Literary and Scientific Register and Almanack* for 1866 (W. Stevens, Strand), which in the 25th year of its

publication needs not to be described, but may be commended without reserve, as the most wonderful pocket encyclopedia ever prepared, as having the various branches of knowledge most carefully and discriminatingly brought down to the present time, and as being, notwithstanding the difficulty of the task, something like "an inventory of the Kosmos in about 300 pages." It is all that almanack and pocket diary should or can be; and it has no end of valuable and pleasant information in every region of knowledge.

We need only name *The Teacher's Pocket-book* (Sunday School Union) as indispensable to every methodical teacher, and as fully maintaining its known excellence; and *The Young People's Pocket-book* (Tract Society), as one of the prettiest little presents possible, and as having within its narrow space the usual array of attractions in the shape of chapters on the months, scientific facts, and interesting gleanings.

Gleanings.

The *Athenæum* says that Sir John Herschel has completed a translation of the "Iliad."

The first piece of cloth manufactured in the colony of Victoria has just been received in this country.

"I rise for information," said a member of the legislative body. "I am very glad you do," said a bystander, "for no man wants it more."

A BUTTERFLY OUT OF SEASON.—On Tuesday last, a beautiful butterfly was captured in the square at Orton, near the Three Tuns Inn,—it appears quite lively.—*Westmorland Gazette.*

A female begging impostor, importuning a gentleman to give her a "copper," the benevolent gentleman said she should have one if she would only leave off begging and take in washing.

An old lady, not remarkable for the clearness of her ideas, describing a fine summer evening said:—"It was a beautiful bright night; the moon made everything as light as a feather."

The weather has been so mild of late that several tolerably fine strawberries have been gathered in the garden belonging to the South Wales Hotel, Neyland, during the past week.—*Swansea Paper.*

Jerrold met a personal enemy in the street one day, who refused to give him half the pavement, saying that he never turned out for a rascal. "I do!" said Jerrold, stepping aside, and politely raising his hat; "pass on, sir—pass on, sir!"

A calculation has been made of the nominal losses sustained by the shareholders of 149 miscellaneous companies by the depreciation of their shares during the present year, and the loss is stated at the large sum of 5,256,000*l.*

There is a report abroad that Mr. John Delane has resigned his post as responsible editor of the *Times*, in consequence of differences between himself and some influential proprietors of that journal in reference to the line recently taken in the paper with regard to Lord John Russell and the Premiership.

James M'Cormick, said to be the oldest man in the United States, died at Newburgh, New York, on the 11th of November. His age is stated to have been 114 years, three months, and five days. He did not marry until he was forty-five; he then became the father of fourteen children.

It is stated that an association has been formed in London for the purpose of supplying legal advice and assistance in any case—"from a police prosecution or defence up to a Chancery suit or an appeal to the House of Lords"—on "most reasonable terms"—namely, 5*l.* per annum!

The Rev. Mr. Gilfillan was one winter night sailing from Liverpool to Glasgow, when a foppish youth resolved to enjoy some light conversation with the Scottish parson. "Pray, Doctor," said the youth, pointing in the direction of the luminary, "Can you tell me why that is called the dog-star?" "Because it's a sky-tarrier, I suppose," was the reply.

THE BREAD AND BUTTER QUESTION AT OXFORD.—It is stated that this controversy has resulted in an entire change of system, and that the various officers of the college will for the future be put on salaries. The office of manciple has merged into the department of the cook, and a fresh place has been created in the form of a bursar's clerkship.

It appears from the *Cornhill Magazine* for January that Mrs. Gaskell's story, "Wives and Daughters," wanted only one brief chapter to the conclusion at the time of her death. From what is known of her designs for the story, and from what she had been heard to say, the editor of the *Cornhill* gives, as best he can, the end of the plot and the fate of the respective characters in it.

SERVANTS' CHARACTERS.—In the absence of express agreement, there is no legal obligation on any master or mistress to give a servant, on dismissal, any character at all, or to give any reason for refusing to do so. This seems somewhat hard upon a good servant, and cannot be said to operate beneficially for servants as a class, unless it be assumed that bad or indifferent servants are more numerous than good ones; and then a rule that would benefit the servants would certainly injure the masters and mistresses. But the truth is, that it is better to leave the management of these matters to the good feeling of the parties concerned, than to regulate them by positive laws; and the absence of compulsion always leaves it doubtful whether the refusal of a master or mistress to give a character is now owing as much to the caprice of the employer as to the unworthiness of the person employed.—*Leisure Hour.*

COMPOSITION OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.—There is no language, probably, in which all the words are formed by its own processes from roots that originally belonged to it. What is peculiar to the English is, not that it has words borrowed from other languages, but that it has so many of them; that a large part of its vocabulary is of foreign origin. In this respect it may be compared to the modern Persian and the Wallachian. The French words which have been ingrafted on the native English stock are, with few exceptions, derived from the Latin; and when added to the almost equal number which have come directly from that language, they make, perhaps, four-fifths of all our borrowed words. Much smaller, though still considerable, especially in scientific use, is the number of words taken from the Greek. The remainder of our foreign words can hardly exceed a twentieth part of the whole vocabulary, and are drawn from a great variety of sources—Celtic, Danish, Dutch, Hebrew, Arabic, Turkish, &c. If all the words in a large English dictionary were classed according to their origin, it would appear that the foreign or non-Saxon words make a decided majority of the whole number. It must be remarked, however, that in such a dictionary, there are many whole words which, though perhaps put forward by distinguished writers, have never established themselves in general use; and also many words which belong, indeed, to the established phraseology of particular sciences and arts, but are unknown to the great majority even of educated people. In both classes the number of foreign words is disproportionately large. Hence, if we take all the distinct words used by particular writers, we shall find a different ratio between the Saxon and foreign elements. Of those used by Shakespeare, it is said that sixty per cent. are of Saxon origin; and the ratio is about the same for the common version of the Bible. But in most literary works of the last two centuries, the foreign element is certainly larger in general, doubtless, it would be found, if reckoned in this way, to equal or exceed the Saxon. But if, instead of counting only distinct words as they would be given in a vocabulary, we count all the words of a writer as they stand on his pages, we shall obtain very different ratio. The Saxon words will now be found in a large majority, varying from sixty to more than ninety per cent. of the whole number. The style of Johnson abounds in words of Latin origin; but in the preface to his dictionary there are seventy-two per cent. of Saxon words. In Milton's poetical works about two-thirds of the vocabulary are foreign; but in the sixth book of *Paradise Lost*, four-fifths of all the words are Saxon.—*Introduction to Webster's Dictionary.*

LONDON CHARITIES.—The digest of the parochial charities of the cities of London and Westminster which has been compiled by the Charity Commissioners, and is now printed as a Parliamentary paper in pursuance of a motion made by the Bishop of London shortly before the close of last session, gives a list of charities, with a gross income exceeding 90,000*l.* a year. The area examined is but a small part of the London of the present day, and the population only a seventh of that of actual London. The compilation is confined to "parochial charities," and may be far from exhausting the subject; but the return will be of great interest to those who are hoping to see charity funds made more really useful. The gross income of the parochial charities of the city of London was found to be 34,862*l.* at the time of the report of the former Commissioners for inquiring concerning charities, but the present Board report that the income is now 64,560*l.* a year—namely, 30,000*l.* a year applicable to the maintenance of churches and clergy, above 11,000*l.* a year for education, and above 23,000*l.* a year for the poor. This last sum is appropriated as follows:—6,069*l.* a year for the support of almshouses and pensioners, 2,865*l.* for distribution of articles in kind, 5,324*l.* for distribution in money, 8,010*l.* for the general use of the poor, and 1,554*l.* for the apprenticing and advancement of children. The parish of St. Mildred, Broad-street, with a population of only 86 persons, rich and poor together, has 404*l.* a year for the general use of the poor; and the parish of St. Michael-le-Quern, with only 74 inhabitants, has endowments producing 349*l.* a year for distribution in money. These parishes have great prizes, but the charities in general consist individually of very small sums, which must seem not worth much care. The 11,000*l.* a year applied in education is very unequally distributed over the city; St. Giles's, Cripplegate, gets 2,046*l.* a year, and St. Dunstons, Aldgate, 4,605*l.* a year. Of the 30,000*l.* a year devoted to Church purposes, nearly 4,000*l.* is for the endowment of the clergy, and no less than 26,480*l.* is for the purposes of Church-rate. The parish of St. Mary-at-Hill, whose population is only 738, has an endowment of 1,418*l.* a year for Church-rate purposes; St. Lawrence, Jewry, with 410 inhabitants, 1,372*l.*; St. Dunstan-in-the-East, with 971 inhabitants, 2,915*l.*; St. Michael, Cornhill, with 371 persons, 1,970*l.* Both St. Sepulchre's and St. Andrew's, Holborn, have endowments for Church-rate purposes exceeding 1,300*l.* a year. What is done with the money is not stated in this paper, but there is no mention of any difficulty in that respect; the return has to acknowledge such instances as 58*l.* a year paid to a minister for reading prayers twice a day, which "are not read"; and 155*l.* received for "almshouses not in existence." The return for Westminster, which has more than double the population of "the city," shows nearly 27,000*l.* a year of income from parochial charitable endowments—1,499*l.* for church and clergy, 7,097*l.* for education, 16,000*l.* for the poor (chiefly for almshouses and pensioners), 1,200*l.* for medical charities, and 780*l.* for loans. St. Mary-le-Strand makes a

puzzling return of "600*l.* for morning service in Chancery." But the return for "the city," as that which once was London claims to be styled, is the most important part of this digest. Modern habits have so thinned the resident population that it is declining to little more than 100,000, and churches are left, with endowments indeed, but wanting worshippers. As for these hundreds of charities for distribution among the poor, it is impossible to shut our eyes to the proofs that they are found so to minister to improvidence, idle living, and habits of deceit, that it is considered that far more harm is done than good, and it is certain that the funds could be much more beneficially applied. The hand of the reformer is wanted here.—*Times.*

Money Market and Commercial Intelligence.

City, Tuesday Evening.
No business was transacted at the Stock Exchange yesterday, and the attendance was very limited to-day. Consols closed at 87½, ½ for money, and 87½, ½ for the 9th January.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

(From Friday's Gazette.)

An Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 32, for the week ending Wednesday, Dec. 20.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued ..	£27,693,345	Government Debt ..	£11,015,100
		Other Securities ..	£3,634,900
		Gold Coin & Bullion ..	13,043,345
	£27,693,345		£27,693,345

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital ..	£14,538,000	Government Securities ..	£9,891,100
Reserve ..	£3,233,200	Other Securities ..	£1,627,853
Public Deposits ..	7,375,855	Notes ..	7,331,735
Other Deposits ..	14,000,230	Gold & Silver Coin ..	829,064
Seven Day and other ..	422,455		
Bills ..			
	£30,679,732		£30,679,732

Dec. 21, 1865.

W. MILLER, Chief Cashier.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTHS.

SMITH.—December 16, at Hamburg, Augusta, Countess de Bentinck, wife of the Rev. James Smith, M.A., of a daughter.
GREEN.—December 17, at Southport, the wife of Mr. Benjamin L. Green, of a daughter.
CLARKE.—December 17, at 3, Montgomery-terrace, Cardiff, the wife of Mr. W. C. Clarke, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

GRIFFITH-BICKERTON.—September 27, at Walston, near Brisbane, Queensland, by the Rev. K. Griffith, Congregational minister, and father of the bridegroom, Edward Griffith, Esq., of the Australian Joint-Stock Bank, Brisbane, to Ellen Bickerton, adopted daughter of M. B. Goggs, Esq.
SMITH-PARKER.—October 5, at the Congregational church, Manly, New South Wales, by the Rev. John Graham, Thomas Sidney Smith, second son of William Smith, Park and Hunter-streets, to Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Mr. William F. Parker, of Brookvale, Manly Cove.
THORNLEY-HALL.—December 12, at Norwood Chapel, Liverpool, by the Rev. F. H. Roberts, minister of Richmond Chapel, Mr. E. Thornley, of Penketh, near Warrington, to Martha, daughter of the late Mr. Peter Hall, of Everton.
POWELL-GARDNER.—December 18, at West Hackney Church, by the Rev. Alexander Goales, Mr. James Thomas Powell, of Homerton College Schools, to Mary, youngest daughter of the late Mr. Charles Gardner, of Ringwood.
STANDVEN-WHITEHEAD.—December 18, at the Baptist chapel, Pellon-lane, Halifax, by the Rev. T. Michael, Mr. William Standven, Norland, to Miss Ellen Whitehead, of Southdown.
BROWN-GULLINE.—December 21, at Ebenezer Chapel, Dewsbury, by the Rev. H. Sturt, Alexander Brown, Esq., Greenock, to Elizabeth Erskine, daughter of Robert Gulline, Esq., Dewsbury.
COX-WAKEFORD.—December 21, at Peartree-green Chapel, Southampton, by the Rev. S. March, B.A., Mr. William Cox, of the Post Office, to Mary Elizabeth, only daughter of Robert Wakeford, Esq., registrar of births, deaths, and marriages, both of Southampton.

DEATHS.

KELLAM.—December 7, at 106, Whitechapel-road, Louisa Ann, relict of the late Mr. John Kellam, of Leicester, architect, &c., also eldest sister of the Rev. Samuel Hillyard, of Bedford.
FLETCHER.—December 8, at Alexandria, Egypt, of brain fever, aged nineteen, Talbot Baines, fourth son of the late John William Pye-Smith, Esq., of Sheffield.

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND PILLS.—Sores which are daily extending, ulcers which are hourly deepening, may be arrested in their torturing progress and induced to take a healthy action by applying this healing ointment and taking these purifying pills. It soothes all distempers and extracts all morbid humours from the skin. Old ulcers of the legs, inflammations caused by varicose veins, and cramps of the lower limbs can sensibly be eased and shortly cured by Holloway's never-failing ointment, which represses excessive and stimulates sluggish, vascular, and nervous action. In constitutions breaking down under piles, fistulas, and other similarly painful maladies, a few applications of this cooling ointment will give comfort, and a persistence in its use will effect a cure.

Markets.

CORN EXCHANGE, LONDON, Friday, Dec. 22.

Trade for both English and foreign wheat has remained much the same since Monday last, business, as usual at this period, being quite restricted. Barley is in good supply, and the sale slow, especially for secondary malting sorts. Beans and peas unaltered. The arrivals of oats this week are small, and this imparts firmness to the trade of this article. The

prices realised to-day are the same as those current last Monday.

CURRENT PRICES.

WHEAT—	Per Qt.	Per Qt.
Essex and Kent, red, old ..	44 to 50	
Ditto new ..	36 45	
White, old ..	52 58	
new ..	42 50	
Foreign red ..	42 48	
white ..	48 58	
BARLEY—		
English malting ..	33 37	
Chevalier ..	33 40	
Distilling ..	29 33	
Foreign ..	21 25	
MALT—		
Pale ..	54 67	
Chevalier ..	64 68	
Brown ..	48 53	
BEANS—		
_ticks ..	39 42	
Harrow ..	43 45	
Small ..	44 50	
Egyptian ..	38 42	
PEAS—		
Grey ..	36 to 39	
Maple ..	37 40	
White ..	39 42	
Beliers ..	40 43	
Foreign, white ..	36 42	
RYE ..	26 28	
OATS—		
English feed ..	30 35	
potatoes ..	25 30	
Scotch feed ..	22 26	
potatoes ..	23 28	
Irish black ..	19 21	
white ..	20 23	
Foreign feed ..	21 25	
FLOWN—		
Town made ..	41 44	
Country Marks ..	32 37	
Norfolk & Suffolk ..	31 34	

BREAD.—LONDON, Saturday, Dec. 23.—The prices of wheat bread in the metropolis are from 7d to 8d.; house-hold ditto, 8½d. to 9½d.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE MARKET.

MONDAY, Dec. 25.—The total imports of foreign stock into London, last week, amounted to 11,703 head. In the corresponding week in 1864 we received 5,406; in 1863, 3,251; in 1862, 2,440; in 1861, 2,832; in 1860, 2,031; in 1859-60, 1,101; in 1858, 2,551; and in 1853, 2,550 head.

For Sale, to sink the Oath.

Inf. coarse beans ..	3 4 to 3 8	Prime Southdown ..	3 2 to 3 6
Second quality ..	3 10 4 4	Lanark ..	3 2 to 3 6
Prime large oxen ..	4 6 4 10	Lge. coarse calves ..	4 0 4 6
Prime Scotch, &c. ..	3 0 3 2	Prime small ..	4 0 4 6
Coarse inf. sheep ..	3 10 4 6	Large hogs ..	4 0 4 6
Second quality ..	4 8 5 4	Weston, porters ..	4 8 5 2
Pr. coarse wooled ..	5 6 6 0		
Suckling calves, 10s. to 12s.; and quarter-old store pigs, 25s. to 32s. each.			

NEWGATE AND LEADENHALL, Saturday, Dec. 23.

The fresh supplies of meat are small. The trade is heavy at the annexed quotations.

		Per stone by the carcass.					
		s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Inferior beef .	3	0	10	3	4	Small pork .	5 2 to 5 8
Middling ditto .	3	6	3	10		Inf. mutton .	3 4 3 10
Prime large do .	4	0	4	4		Middling ditto .	4 0 4 10
Do. small do. .	4	6	4	8		Prime ditto .	5 0 5 2
Large pork .	3	10	5	0		Veal	3 10 4 8

COVENT-GARDEN, SATURDAY, Dec. 23.—Christmas evergreens are abundant; and, in consequence of the forthcoming festival season, trade is somewhat brisker than it was last week. Pineapples are still abundant. Peas still continue to consist chiefly of Winter Nells, Buerd's Del, Master Bourd, and Van Mons Leon is Clero. Grapes are now reaching good prices. Oranges are plentiful, and excellent in quality. Potatoes are also abundant. Prices for asparagus are still getting lower. Rhubarb and sea-kale are each sufficient for the demand. Flowers chiefly consist of orchids, heaths, mignonette, Chinese primulas, and roses.

POTATOES.—BOROUGH AND SPITALFIELDS, Saturday, Dec. 23.—These markets are well supplied with potatoes. Generally speaking the trade is quiet at about stationary prices. This week's imports is very small. Kent and Essex Regents, 60s. to 80s. per ton; Yorkshire Regents, 60s. to 80s.; Flukes, 50s. to 110s.; Rocks, 50s. to 70s.; Scotch Regents, 60s. to 70s.

PROVISIONS, Friday, Dec. 23.—In the Irish butter market there is no alteration to notice, the demand very limited, and prices nominally without change. Foreign early in the week advanced 2s. to 4s. per cwt., but has since receded to the same extent. The bacon market declined about 1s. per cwt., which caused rather more business to be transacted, and sales of best Waterford made 62s. on board, shipped, and for early shipment.

WOOL, Saturday, Dec. 23.—Since our last report very little business has been passing in any kind of wool, either for home use or for export, and prices have ruled almost nominal. The supplies on offer are very moderate.

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